

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



SEVERAL special meetings of the Executive Committee have been held during the month, to hear Counsel's opinion concerning the Bye-Laws, which will doubtless be fully reported at the Council meeting next month.

A meeting of the Registration Board was held at the Offices on Friday, Feb. 22nd, at 5 p.m., Miss Thorold, Vice-Chairman, in the chair, when twelve applications for registration were considered, and the following Nurses were accepted and their names enrolled on the Register.

Name	Trained at
Coles, Emma Devon & Exeter Hospital (cert.).
Gillard, Mary Auckland Hospital, N.Z. (cert.).
Hassall, Bessie General Infirmary, Worcester.
Hooker, Ellen F. Royal Free Hospital (cert.).
Hunter, Georgina Adelaide Hospital, Dublin (cert.).
Lyons, Elinor (Lady Supt.)	Meath Hospital, Dublin.
Merchant, Florence Warneford Hospital, Leamington.
Shaw-Hellier, Caroline	Kimberley Hospital, South Africa.
Titherington, Rachel Middlesex Hospital (cert.). (Matron, Cottage Hospital, Ealing.)
Worley, Florence St. Bartholomew's Hospital (cert.).
Wright, Ada Royal Free Hospital (cert.).

On Monday, the 25th inst., the Educational and Disciplinary Sub-Committee met to consider the Council list for 1895 and 1896, as after it has been submitted to the Executive Committee on April 5th, and the Council on the 19th inst., the voting papers will be issued to the members. The Committee will meet again at 5 p.m. on Monday next.

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee will take place on Friday, the 5th prox., at 5 p.m.

Miss Charlotte M. Noel-Thompson has been appointed, out of 112 candidates, Matron of the Pearn Convalescent Home at Plymouth. Miss Thompson was one of the early members of our Association, and was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital ten years ago. Miss Thompson has, since that time, held two responsible posts, having been Matron of the Clayton Hospital at Wakefield, and of late years Matron of the Stockport Infirmary. We should imagine that Miss Noel-Thompson will make an ideal Matron of a Convalescent Home, as she possesses a bright charm of manner which greatly endears her to her patients and fellow-workers, and her unusual talent for music and singing will doubtless also be turned to useful account.

In Memoriam.

It is with sincere regret that we have to announce the death of one of our earliest and most sympathetic fellow members, which took place on February 24th at Kimberley, a fact which will be read with grief by

all those members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who had the advantage of knowing her. The death of Christina Pagett means the loss of a brave unselfish woman—a woman who was inspired by the highest motives, and performed her duties with absolute self-abnegation—and in losing her the Nurses lose a bright example and a loving friend. A Kimberley paper gives the following sketch of her career:—

"There died yesterday, in the Kimberley Hospital, a remarkable woman, one of those to whose energy and perseverance the younger women of the present generation owe the place and position they find prepared for them in the work of the world. Christina Pagett was the daughter of a Yorkshire yeoman, living in an old hall on the moors. She has often described herself as a wild girl, working hard, riding hard, dancing hard, walking long distances. It was at a dance in an orchard that she fell and broke her leg, and was laid up for three years, an illness which ended in the loss of the leg, under the rough North Country surgery of the time, without chloroform. Many would have said that was the marring of the fine, active, high-spirited girl, but she took a different view. 'It was the making of me,' she often said, 'for it humbled me.' As soon as she was well and about again and able to walk well, she joined another North Country woman, Sister Dora, at the Hospital for Accidents in Walsall. That was really the turning point of her life. In the seven or eight years she was with her Sister Dora's life was drawing to a close, and her fervid Christianity awakened the great devotion of Christina Pagett's life. It was at Walsall, of course, she learnt nursing, and it was there, too, she was brought under the influence of Father Douglas, then just in Holy Orders, of Father Twigg, and especially of Canon Bodington. It was from them she learnt her strong Church principles, and especially her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, which was afterwards the keynote of her life.

After Sister Dora's death she joined another well-known Yorkshire woman, Emma Stapylton, who was founding St. Anne's Home at Bridlington. As Matron, under the Foundress, she worked this large establishment for nearly ten years. On Miss Stapylton's death, she joined her friend the first Mother of St. Michael's Sisterhood, and came out to Africa with her. Her zeal and energy here are well known amongst Church workers. The Kimberley Hospital was then rapidly increasing from a small work to a large one; she organised the housekeeping, and worked here as house-keeper herself for four years. She then began her work at the Pretoria Hospital, where she stayed some time. She was then Matron of the Barberton Hospital. Here her health began to fail, and she broke her other leg while saving a native patient from falling. But she still, after she left Barberton, carried on her labours, and she worked under the Parish Priest in Middelburg, in the Transvaal, doing all she could for the Church and the sick. She returned here on a visit in October, 1893, and immediately set to work, taking the night superintendency of the Hospital for a few months, nursing two or three cases privately, taking the superintendence of the Queenstown Hospital during the absence of the Matron, and finally, the charge of the Nurses' Home in the Hospital during the Home Matron's illness.

This was her last work; after some weeks of failure she took to her bed, and knew her work in this world was at an end. With characteristic energy she arranged her affairs and prepared for death, thinking her illness would be a short one. But for nine months she had to wait with patience. She had no fear and no doubt, but she was intensely weary, and every day, as it brought increased weakness, brought increased suffering. Her great happiness was in the frequent offices of the Church, whose devoted daughter she had been all her life."

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