

Nursing in 1898.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

THE past year has been memorable in the annals of the Matrons' Council as having seen the inauguration of an Annual Conference. On June 15th and 16th the Council met in the Medical Society's Rooms, Chandos Street, when most interesting and able papers were read by various members, and the general public, as well as many Matrons and nurses, took part in the discussions which followed. The Conference aroused extreme interest, and was widely noticed in the daily press, and many of the papers have been published not only in this country, but in the nursing papers in America. Some important resolutions were passed at the Conference, and a cordial invitation was by desire of the Council sent to its hon. members, inviting them to be present at the Quinquennial meeting of the International Council to be held in London next year, and to be the guests of the Matrons' Council for the Conference Week. The invitation has met with a very warm response from the hon. members. A resolution was also passed by the Council in May last, and forwarded to the Secretary of the International Council of Women "That the Matrons' Council consider it desirable that the important question of trained nursing for the sick of all classes should form one of the subjects for discussion at the forthcoming Congress at the International Council of Women." As a member of the Committee of Arrangements, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was able to emphasize the importance of including Nursing in the Professional Section and the Matrons' Council heard with much gratification that their suggestion had been considered, and that time is to be given for an International Nursing Conference.

Miss Cureton, Matron of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, having acted for three years as Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council, retired in rotation. She was offered and accepted the title of Councillor. Miss Hopkins, Matron of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, also resigned the office of Vice-Chairman on account of her distance from London. The positions vacated by these ladies have been filled by Miss Margaret Huxley, Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's, Hospital, Dublin, and Miss M. Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants

Infirmary. Much quiet and steady work has been done by the Matrons' Council during the past year, and there is every reason to be satisfied with the progress it has made.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The history of this Association during the past year is chiefly remarkable for the passing of the new Bye-Laws drawn up by the Hon. Officers, and for the subsequent resignation of most of the influential Matron Members, who strongly disapproved of them. A Nurses' Association managed by medical men, without a policy, and without the support of the leading members of the Nursing Profession, can never become a professional force. Nurses have a right to co-operate, and the attempt to prevent their doing so by depriving them under the new Bye-Laws of all practical power, has inevitably rendered the Royal British Nurses' Association futile and unpopular.

NURSING IN THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

In the Hospital world many matronships have changed hands, the most important being in London, the Westminster Hospital, the London Temperance Hospital, the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, the Grosvenor Hospital, Vincent Square, the North London Hospital for Consumption, the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, the Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark, the Park Hospital, and the Fountain Fever Hospital: in the provinces, the Birmingham General Hospital, the Midland Eye Hospital in the same city, the Chichester Infirmary, the Hereford General Infirmary, the General Hospital, Swansea, and in Scotland, the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and the Forfar Infirmary.

Abroad, we note that the nursing at the Military Hospital, Athens, has been re-organised, and a trained Lady Superintendent appointed by Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Greece, the nursing arrangements of the Kaisr-el-Aini Hospital, Cairo, have been revised, and a Lady Superintendent appointed.

In the States, the New York City Training School for Nurses has changed hands, and a Lady Superintendent was appointed to the Army Camp Hospital, Montauk Point, and from Australia comes the news of a fresh appointment at the Bathurst Hospital.

Cupid has also been busy, and matrimony has removed from active work various well-known members of the nursing profession.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)