

The Matrons' Council.



THE Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Thursday, October 26th, at 4.30 p.m.

Miss Isla Stewart (Chairman) presided.

Miss Margaret Breay (Hon. Sec.) read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed, and announced letters of regret at inability to attend from Miss Rogers and Miss Pell Smith, Leicester; Miss Sidney Browne, Aldershot; Miss Shirley, Stoke-on-Trent; Miss Forrest, Bournemouth; Mrs. Follows, Manchester; Miss Wingfield, Macclesfield; Mrs. Okell, Buxton; Miss Ross and Miss C. H. Bourne, London.

Letters from Miss A. W. Godfrey, of New Zealand, and Miss M. H. Watkins, of Cape Colony, expressing their appreciation of the hospitality extended to them by the Council at the time of the International Congress, were read, and one from Miss J. Melita Jones, Matron of the Nelson Hospital, New Zealand, upon a professional question, which was referred to the Executive Committee.

Miss Breay also reported that she had received a letter from the Dean of Durham, Warden of the University, stating that the Resolution of the Matrons' Council with regard to the desirability of founding a Chair of Clinical Nursing in connection with Durham University had been referred by the Senate to the College of Medicine, and that the Medical (Newcastle) Council had reported unfavourably upon the suggestion.

The Council directed the Hon. Secretary to forward a Resolution to the Warden of the University expressing regret that the Senate did not at present see its way to acceding to the suggestion of the Matrons' Council.

A further suggestion in relation to founding a Chair of Clinical Nursing was then considered.

The following applications for membership were then presented:—

Miss Louisa H. Hayes, Matron, County Tyrone Hospital, Omagh; Miss Martha McCaw, Matron, Her Majesty's Hospital, Stepney Causeway; Miss Annie Carter, Matron, The Cottage Hospital, Bromley; Miss Helen Todd, Matron, National Sanatorium, Bournemouth; Miss Georgina B. MacVitie, late Superintendent, Providence Free Hospital, St. Helen's, Lancashire; Miss J. Melita Jones, Matron, Nelson Hospital, New Zealand; Miss Frances G. Spencer, Matron,

Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, Parramatta River, New South Wales; Miss Blanche Bricknell, Matron, Carrington Convalescent Hospital, Camden, New South Wales.

It was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss Clara Lee, and carried unanimously, that these applications recommended by the Executive Committee be accepted.

The Hon. Secretary then read the Annual Report (which we hope to print next week), and it was proposed by Miss Clara Lee that the Report be adopted and printed, this was seconded by Miss Stewart from the Chair, and carried unanimously.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The names of members were proposed for seats on the Executive Committee, and Miss Emmie Lofts (Lewisham), who was present, accepted office.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following Resolutions, of which notice had been given, were then considered.

1. "That, for the future, the Matrons' Council be composed only of Members, who shall be trained nurses, who are, or have been, Matrons of Hospitals."

The Bye Law affected by this resolution to run, for the future.

- "The Society shall be formed of Members. Women who are, or have been, Matrons of Hospitals, and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions, who are trained nurses, shall be eligible for membership."

In proposing the Resolution, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that it was felt by several members that it was advisable for the future not to admit Associates, but to restrict the Matrons' Council to those who were at present, or who had been, Matrons of Hospitals, or Superintendents of Nursing Institutions. A letter from Miss Wingfield (Macclesfield) was read strongly supporting this view. The Resolution was seconded by Miss Isla Stewart, and carried unanimously.

2. "That No. 5 of the objects of the Society be deleted."

The object referred to is "To encourage members to understand the methods of procedure at meetings." It was considered that this purpose, though important, was not sufficiently general to be included in the objects of the Society. The resolution to delete the words was carried unanimously.

3. "That the Matrons' Council define a curriculum on Hospital Economics, in view of the establishment of such a course of instruction for those trained nurses desirous of further qualifying for the position of Matron and Superintendent of Nursing."

In proposing the resolution it was said that the need of this course was very much felt, and that

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