

in the United States a course for intending Superintendents had already been organized in connection with Teachers' College. Further suggestions having been made, the resolution was passed unanimously. A Sub-Committee was appointed to define the course considered desirable, composed of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, the Hon. Officers, Miss Foley (Richmond), Miss Lofts (Lewisham), and Miss Burleigh (Tooting), subject to their consent to act. Miss Foley and Miss Lofts, who were present, accepted office.

4. "That the Matrons' Council form a Provisional Committee to consider the organization of a National Council of Nurses, in view of affiliating with the International Council of Nurses."

It was represented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick that though the growth of a National Council of Nurses might be slow, it was important that some professional body should be authorized to represent British nurses officially in relation to the International Council of Nurses. It was agreed—"That the Matrons' Council empowers its Executive Committee to act as a Provisional Committee to consider the organization of a National Council of Nurses, in view of affiliating with the International Council of Nurses."

After discussion, this Resolution was also carried unanimously

Notice having been given of a resolution to deal with the revision of the Bye Laws at the next meeting, the meeting then terminated.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Sec., Matrons' Council.

At Rest.

VERY great regret has been felt at the York County Hospital and at the York Home for Nurses, at the death of Nurse Marie Spraggon, from typhoid, caught in the discharge of her duties at the Sanatorium, Scarborough. Nurse Spraggon had only recently completed her training. She had done extremely well, and her sweet disposition had made her much liked. The Home for Nurses to which she belonged, loses in her a valuable nurse. Nurse Spraggon had had great advantages in her former life from having been thrown into close and frequent contact with that lady, whose "Noble Life" many of us have read with interest, Louisa Lady Waterford, and had, doubtless, thus acquired that sweet gentleness which marked her manner and bearing. She had made an excellent nurse, and, during the short time she had been doing private nursing, had gained the respect of all who worked with her. Her funeral was attended by a large number of her fellow nurses, and many loving tributes of flowers were laid on her coffin.

The Canterbury Case.

WE are glad to observe that many of the local papers have given publicity to our remarks upon the nursing crisis at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, and the majority wisely urge both the Committee and subscribers to make a searching enquiry into the complaints of the resident medical and nursing staffs; and some letters which have appeared are also calculated to help the nurses' cause.

From information received, we much fear that there is little hope of the present Committee taking any steps which are likely to elicit the truth, or deal justly with their resident staff. At a meeting held, on Friday, some exception was taken to the statement that the Matron (Miss Messum) had publicly threatened not to sign the certificate of training of any nurse who dared to sign the Petition to the Committee, asking for redress of their grievances, and it was proposed to sift this matter officially. This just course was obstructed, we believe, by a personal friend of the late Captain Messum, the Matron's father, and the resolution was outvoted, and we believe the Committee separated without any action, ignoring a new Petition sent in for their consideration from the House Surgeons. We learn that these gentlemen have, therefore, sent their Petition to the press.

The following is a copy of the original Petition signed by the Sisters and Nurses:—

"GENTLEMEN,—We, the Sisters and Nursing Staff of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, wish to draw your attention to the food provided for our maintenance. We do not complain so much of the insufficiency as of the inferior quality and the way it is cooked. The lack of proper food is seriously impairing the health of many of the nurses who are suffering from acute indigestion. We have brought this matter before the Matron, but as she maintains we have no ground for complaint, we feel that the only course open to us is to appeal directly to you, which we do at her suggestion.

"We wish also to complain of the general tone of rudeness and tyranny adopted by the Matron towards the Sisters and Nursing Staff, and are prepared to bring forward and prove several instances of personal abuse and insult to individual Sisters and Nurses.

"We feel the 'Special Committee' appointed by the Board of Management did not give due consideration to a petition sent in *unsigned* (owing to the Matron's intimidation of the Nurses), therefore we present another signed by every Sister and Nurse of this Hospital.

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