

20, Hanover Square, some 200 nurses being present.

Interesting papers were read on:—

"The Balance of Power in Hospital Administration," by Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants. Infirmary, and Vice-Chairman of the Matrons' Council.

"The Value of Discipline in Training," by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Chairman of the Council, and

"The Work of Women on Hospital Boards," by Miss Lucy Walker, Matron of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, also a member of the Council.

The papers were followed by animated discussions.

The Conference will, however, be chiefly memorable for the following Resolution proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss Isla Stewart from the Chair, and carried unanimously with enthusiasm:—

"That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses."

It was further proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss M. Huxley, supported in an eloquent speech by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, and carried unanimously:—

"That the Hon. Officers and Hon. Members of the Matrons' Council be invited to form a Provisional Committee to consider the best methods of organizing an International Council of Nurses with power to add to their number." Mrs. Fenwick further suggested that the nucleus of this Committee should meet in London at once, and that Mrs. Quintard and Miss Lucy Walker, of the United States, Mrs. Norrie, of Denmark, Miss Krusee, of Holland, and Miss Watkins, of Cape Colony, be invited to join it. The Provisional Committee is now considering the draft constitution.

WORK OF MEMBERS.

All the Members of the Council have, in the past year, been fully occupied in their own special spheres of work, and are working individually for the good of the nursing profession as a whole.

Of special work of members during the past year we note the following:—

The establishment of a course of Hospital Economics at Teachers' College in connection with Columbia University, New York, for graduate nurses desirous of further qualifying for the post of Superintendent. The application of candidates to be endorsed by the Superintendents' Society. This most important step was taken at the request of the American Society of Superintendents upon the initiative of Mrs. Hampton Robb, Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council, and she has

been supported by Miss Brennan, Superintendent, New York Training School for Nurses, Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, and Miss Hanna Kindbom, Matron of the John Sealy Hospital, Galveston, all Hon. Members of the Matrons' Council.

Miss S. B. McGahey, another Hon. Member, has taken a prominent part in forming the Trained Nurses' Association in New South Wales, and has been appointed its Nurse Hon. Secretary.

Miss Isla Stewart, Chairman of the Matrons' Council, has, in conjunction with Dr. Herbert Cuff, published the first volume of a book on "Practical Nursing." It is specially noteworthy as advocating a Central Preliminary College, a high standard of Practical Nursing, certification after public examination, and legal registration of nurses. Another important work inaugurated by Miss Stewart during the past year is the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, an Association of the certificated nurses of the hospital which has already been joined by 220 graduates. This is notable as being the first Association of the kind in this country.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as Convener and Chairman of the Professional Section of the International Congress of Women, organized and most successfully carried out this department. She also acted as Treasurer of the International Congress Fund, for which about £1,711 was subscribed, and after defraying the expenses of the Congress, over £100 was handed over to the Treasurer of the International Council of Women.

Miss Sidney Browne, Superintendent Sister in the Army Nursing Service, has been ordered on active service in charge of No. 3 General Hospital. She carries with her the best wishes of her colleagues, and the assurance of their pleasure that one so well qualified to uphold the best traditions of the nursing profession in the field should have been appointed to this position.

Valuable papers dealing with nursing under the Poor Law have been read by two of our members during the past year.

Miss C. B. S. Wilkie, Lady Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax, presented a paper on "The Best Means of Providing and Training Nurses for the Indoor Poor," at the Central Conference of Poor Law Guardians, held in London in February, and at the Yorkshire Poor Law Conference in the preceding November, and Miss E. E. Julian, Matron of the Croydon Infirmary, presented a paper on the "Need of Nursing Reform in Workhouse Infirmaryes," at the General Meeting of the London and District Poor Law Officers' Association, held at Hackney, in January.

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