

I shall have great pleasure in wearing it. Truly, we get compensations which cover a great many of the trials and aggravations which come in our work. I have shown the Badge to many of my staff who showed intense gratification over the honour of it.

Believe me,
Very faithfully yours,
M. D. FARQUHARSON.

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Hon. Secretary then presented the following Report.

"I have to report that since the last Meeting of the Council the Executive Committee has met once when the arrangements for the Annual Conference were discussed. It was proposed that the Conference should be held on the afternoons of Thursday and Friday, July 5th and 6th, at the Medical Societies Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, and that a Meeting of the Council for the transaction of business, should be held at the same place on one of these mornings. The Rooms have since been secured. The proposals as to the papers to be presented will be brought forward at a later stage of this Meeting.

The Sub-Committee appointed to consider the most desirable organization for a National Council of Nurses has also met, and drawn up a Draft Constitution, which is before the Meeting to day.

The work of the "Nursing Directory" Sub-Committee with regard to the Directory for 1900, is now completed, and the new Directory is here for inspection to day.

In accordance with the instructions I received at the last meeting of the Council, I forwarded to the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War, the Secretary of the London Obstetrical Society, and the Secretary of the National Union of Women Workers, the Resolutions passed at that Meeting. On behalf of Mr. Goschen, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Austen Chamberlain expressed his willingness to receive a Deputation. The hon. officers were invited to compose this, and on Tuesday, March 6th, Miss Isla Stewart, President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Councillor, Miss M. Mollett, Vice-Chairman, and Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary, waited on Mr. Chamberlain as a Deputation from the Council, when they were received most courteously, Sir Henry Norbury, the Director-General being present. Miss Stewart, as President, read, on behalf of the Matrons' Council, suggestions as to the formation of a Naval Nursing Department at the Admiralty, and these were subsequently discussed, the Deputation remaining for over an hour. Mr. Chamberlain said that he would report to his colleagues on the Board and to the First Lord the suggestions which the Matrons' Council had been good enough to make, and that he was most interested in the suggestions with regard to the Sisters.

A letter has been received from the Secretary of State for War upon which it is necessary that some action should be taken.

A letter from Miss Janes, Secretary of the National Union of Women Workers, also needs consideration.

The Secretary of the Obstetrical Society of London acknowledged the receipt of the resolution sent, and stated that he would lay it before the Council of the Society at its next meeting. No further communication has, as yet, been received.

I regret to report the death of Miss Barrow, Lady Superintendent of the General Infirmary, Chester, who has been a member of the Matrons' Council from its foundation. Although unable, owing to distance from town, to be present at the meetings, Miss Barrow always took a cordial interest in the work of the Society."

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the organization of a National Council of Nurses, was then read, and it was suggested by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick that, in view of the importance of the subject, that the discussion of this Report be deferred until the next Council Meeting on July 6th, when the Society meets in Conference, and that, meanwhile, the Report be printed and sent to the members for their consideration.

A NAVY NURSING DEPARTMENT AT THE ADMIRALTY.

Suggestions from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland as to the formation of a Naval Nursing Department at the Admiralty.

SIR,—We, as a Deputation from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland (an Association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses), desire to express our thanks to the First Lord of the Admiralty for his courtesy in receiving us. As past or present Superintendents of Nursing of large London and Provincial Training Schools, and with an average experience of nursing of about twenty years, we are grateful, on behalf of the Society we represent, for the present opportunity of expressing our views on the important subject of the reorganization of nursing in the Navy, which we are aware is now engaging the attention of the Admiralty.

NURSING PROGRESS.

Within the last twenty years, progress in nurse training has greatly advanced in Civil Hospitals. The nurse of the present day must be a highly educated and skilful person if she is to render efficient service to physicians and surgeons and to the sick. Scientific medicine and surgery have of recent years made great strides. Operations are now daily performed which, years ago, would not have been attempted, and which are only possible because the surgeon in his absence can, with confidence, leave his patient in the charge of a skilled and experienced nurse. Nursing is, in fact, evolving, as the necessary complement of medicine and surgery, into a skilled and scientific profession.

In this connection we beg to point out that in all civil hospitals in this country the nursing of male patients is entirely, and most satisfactorily, done by women, and we can see no valid reason why the Sisters in Naval Hospitals should not be entirely responsible to the medical and surgical officers for the carrying out of their directions in relation to the sick in every detail.

NURSING ORGANIZATION.

The organization now generally adopted in Civil Hospitals, by which the Medical and Nursing Departments are each controlled by a head officer, directly responsible to the Committee, has been found to be

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