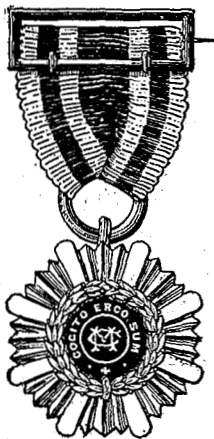


The Matrons' Council Conference

THE Third Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland took place at the Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Thursday and Friday last week.



Miss Isla Stewart, President, took the chair on each occasion, and a large number of members were present, amongst these being—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the International Council of Nurses; the Vice-Chairmen, Miss Gertrude Knight (Nottingham), Miss Mollett (Southampton), Miss Margaret Huxley (Dublin), and Miss Rogers (Leicester); Miss Barling (Kidderminster), Miss Bradshaw (Dublin), Miss Mareydd Harrison (Southport), Miss Julian (Croydon), and many others. We propose this week to give a resume of the whole Conference and in subsequent issues to publish the papers presented in full, in order that members who were unable to be present may have an opportunity of reading them.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

LADIES,—The years fly past with extraordinary rapidity, it seems impossible that it can be a year since I had the honour and pleasure of welcoming you at our Annual Conference in 1899. I am glad to see so many present, and I hope that, as in the past, our Conference will not only give us pleasure, but help.

I think we may look back with some satisfaction at the way we have come—our number of members have been increased by 21 new members. We have lost one, Miss Barrow, of Chester General Infirmary, by death, and one, Miss Turner, once Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, but in the later years Sister of Lawrence Ward in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by marriage. She has settled in India. We have now 104 members, and 9 honorary members.

Our honorary members have been very active. Mrs. Hampton Robb has, with the help of other American Superintendents, instituted a Post-graduate Course in Hospital Economics for those who wish to compete for the more responsible posts in Hospitals. Miss Snively, of the General Hospital, Toronto, has become Honorary Treasurer, and Miss L. L. Dock—Honorary Secretary of the American Society of Superinten-

dents of Training Schools for Nurses—has been appointed Honorary Secretary, to the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Dock has also written a small book, "Short Papers on Nursing Subjects," which is published by Messrs. Putnam.

Miss McGahey, Matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, N.S.W., is Honorary Secretary of, and helped to organise, the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, and has founded "The Prince Alfred's Trained Nurses' Re-union," an association of the Graduate Nurses of that Hospital.

Of our own members, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been elected President of the International Council of Nurses, and I am sure you will agree with me, that no more suitable President could have been found, or one more likely to push forward such a scheme. Three of our members are serving their country in South Africa—Miss Sidney Browne, who is one of the Military Superintending Sisters; Miss Beatrice Jones, Matron of the Victoria Park Hospital for Consumption; and Miss Ethel Atkins, Late Matron of the Park Fever Hospital.

THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION.

It was decided at our last Annual Conference "That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses." A Provisional Committee was formed, and has been at work during the year, and to-day the work of that Committee was finished. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was elected President, Miss Snively Honorary Treasurer, and Miss L. L. Dock Honorary Secretary. Our Bye-Laws have been revised, and the title of President substituted for that of Chairman as more suited to the growing importance of the Association.

The Council forwarded a resolution to the University of Durham, suggesting the desirability of founding a Chair of Clinical Nursing. It was courteously received by the Senate, but rejected after consultation with the Medical Board.

Resolutions have also been forwarded to the Secretary of State for War, and to the First Lord of the Admiralty, and a deputation was most courteously received by Mr. Austen Chamberlain for Mr. Goschen.

I must not detain you, as we have some very interesting papers to hear this afternoon on most important matters.

The first paper was one by Miss Julian, Matron of the Croydon Infirmary, on

"THE POOR LAW NURSING SERVICE."

Miss Julian pointed out that the present position of Matron of an Infirmary under the Poor Law was not one of an official directly

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