

After the President had read and presented the memorandum Lord Raglan invited comment upon it, when further remarks were made by members of the Deputation. Lord Raglan expressed himself much interested in the suggestions made by the Matrons' Council and promised to bring the memorandum to the notice of the Secretary of State for War.

#### CORRESPONDENCE IN THE "TIMES."

The following day a report of these proceedings was published in the *Times* newspaper, and in its next issue a letter appeared from the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, manifestly written with the object of injuring the Matrons' Council in public estimation.

Mr. Bedford Fenwick sent a reply which elicited another letter from Mr. Sydney Holland; this was answered by the hon. secretary.

Since the publication of these letters the Hon. Secretary has received a letter from Mr. Sydney Holland asking for a list of the members of the Council.

#### THE REGISTRATION OF THREE MONTHS' MIDWIVES.

In accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee the Hon. Secretary wrote to the Secretary of the Council of the British Medical Association asking if that body would be willing to receive a Deputation to express the views of this Council on the Registration of Midwives as it affects trained nurses. The Secretary replied he would have much pleasure in bringing this letter before the next meeting of the Council.

#### THE DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL NURSES' CONGRESS.

The following nominations were made by the Executive Committee of members to represent the Council at the forthcoming International Nurses' Congress:—Miss Barling, Matron, Kidderminster Infirmary; Miss Mollett, Vice-Chairman, Matron Royal South Hants Infirmary; Miss Todd, Matron National Hospital for Consumption, Bournemouth; Miss Poole, Matron East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn. All these ladies have written expressing their sense of the honour done them, the first three consenting to act if elected. Miss Poole regretted her inability to do so. Voting papers have been sent out and the result shows that Miss Mollett has a majority of 38 votes.

#### BRITISH CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

A letter has been received from the Secretary of the British Congress on Tuberculosis, inviting the Matrons' Council to send delegates to this Congress, which is to be held in the Queen's Hall, London, from Monday, July 22nd to Friday, July 26th.

#### OTHER BUSINESS.

Miss Deane, Matron of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital has consented to serve on the Executive Committee.

Letters of interest have been received from the following members: Miss Farquharson and Miss McGahey, hon. members (Australia), Miss Sidney Browne (South Africa), Miss Snively (Canada), and from Mrs. Hampton Robb, Miss L. L. Dock, and Miss Maud Banfield (United States).

A letter was considered by the last Executive Committee from Mrs. George Cadbury, Hon. Treasurer of the National Union of Women Workers, asking if the Council would increase its subscription to the Union. It was agreed to subscribe 10s. per annum and at the same time to write to the National Union expressing the hope that this Society would in the future enquire into and take a more active interest in the condition of professional nursing.

#### DISCUSSION

##### THE DEPUTATION ON ARMY NURSING.

The following correspondence which appeared in the *Times* was then read by the Hon. Secretary.

*To the Editor of the Times.*

SIR,—I see that certain ladies, calling themselves by the important name of the "Matrons' Council," were received as a deputation yesterday by Lord Raglan, to whom they expressed their views on Army nursing. Their views may be right or wrong. I am only concerned to point out that these few ladies do not represent in any sense the nursing profession or the matrons of the London or provincial hospitals. They are a self-constituted body, not elected by the matrons of any of the principal hospitals, and, with the exception of St. Bartholomew's, there is not on the so-called "Matrons' Council" a single representative of a training school for nurses, even of second importance.

No one can object, of course, to any one trying to improve Army or any other nursing; on the contrary. But the name taken by these few ladies gives a fictitious importance to their views and probably led to their being received by the War Office at all, and it seems to me necessary, however ungracious it may seem, to say so.

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY HOLLAND.

(Chairman, London Hospital).

April 3rd.

*To the Editor of the Times.*

Sir, I regret that, owing to the holidays, I have only this evening seen the characteristic letter from the Hon. Sydney Holland which appeared in *The Times* under the above heading on the 4th inst. As I had the honour to be one of the deputation from the Matrons' Council to the War Office, as reported in your columns on the 3rd inst., I feel confident you will grant me the justice of a reply to the letter in question.

I need not comment upon the courage and courtesy displayed in such an unprovoked attack upon "a few ladies." And the feeble inconsequence of the letter renders criticism difficult. For example, Mr. Holland does not deny that the object of the deputation was laudable—in fact, that Army Nursing is capable of improvement—yet he troubles your readers with a letter merely to express his deep anxiety lest the War Office should place a "fictitious" value on the views of the deputation which advocated such improvement.

But I must protest against the complete inaccuracy of Mr. Holland's statements. He commences by asserting that "certain ladies, calling themselves by the important name of the 'Matrons' Council,' were received as a deputation" at the War Office. The truth is that seven ladies, nominated for that purpose

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)