

a Councillor, and the vacancy thus caused as Vice-Chairman was accepted by Miss Rogers, Lady Superintendent of the Leicester Infirmary, who was also unanimously appointed.

Seats upon the Executive Committee were accepted by Miss Burleigh, Matron of the Fountain Fever Hospital; Miss Maud Moore, Matron of the Hospital for Women and Children, Waterloo Bridge Road; Mrs. Andrews, Late Lady Superintendent, Gordon House Home Hospital, and Miss Todd, Matron of the National Hospital for Consumption, Bournemouth.

A recommendation from the Executive Committee that the qualifications for membership be further defined was discussed, and the question was referred back to the Executive Committee to report upon at the next Council Meeting, in order that the views of the absent members might be ascertained on the subject.

The meeting then terminated.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary, Matrons' Council.

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS OLIVE K. HEATH has been appointed Matron of the Stockton and Thornaby Hospital. She was trained at the Hospital, Dudley, and the Infirmary, East Dulwich, and has held the positions of Charge Nurse at the Surgical Hospital, Barnsley, Head Nurse at the Infirmary, Greenwich, Charge Nurse at the Stockton and Thornaby Hospital, and Matron of the Keighley Infirmary.

SISTER.

MISS MARY STANFORD has been appointed Ward Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol. She received her training at St. Thomas' Hospital, and has held the position of Staff Nurse at University College Hospital.

MISS FLORENCE E. TYLECOTE has been appointed Sister at the Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon. She received her training at the Cheltenham General Hospital, where she subsequently held the positions of Night Superintendent and Surgery Sister. She has recently been on the staff of the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

MISS EDITH MARY PARSLOE has also been appointed Sister at the same institution. She received her training at the Kensington Infirmary, and after held the position of Sister at the St. Pancras Infirmary. For the last six months she has been engaged in private nursing in Bedford and South Wales.

The Training of Poor Law Nurses.

A COUNTY CONFERENCE AT LEEDS.

AN important Conference, the outcome of the Yorkshire Poor Law Conference, and convened on the initiative of the Halifax Board of Guardians, was held last week at Leeds to consider the question of how to secure a proper standard of training for nurses in workhouse infirmaries. The question is an acute one, for the present position is that the Local Government Board has laid down a certain standard with regard to the qualifications of nurses to which it expects Boards of Guardians to adhere, while it in no way indicates how nurses possessing the qualifications required are to be attracted to infirmary and workhouse nursing, and it is common knowledge that, under present conditions, infirmary nursing, more especially in the infirmaries connected with the smaller workhouses, does not attract the most highly trained nurses. In short, Guardians are asked to make bricks without straw. On the other hand, it frequently happens that Guardians show no disposition to obtain the services of skilled nurses, nor do they appreciate the value of their services, though here, again, a difficulty presents itself. Skilled labour commands correspondingly high remuneration, and the salaries which trained nurses can command appear to many Boards of Guardians to be excessive. Guardians must needs realize in the future that efficient nursing is an expensive item. It means not only the salaries of the nurses, but also cleanliness throughout the nursing department, and cleanliness is an expensive item. Cleanliness in the wards themselves, a plentiful supply of clean bed and body linen, scrupulous cleanliness in the care of hospital appliances, all mean expense. The maintenance of infirmaries in a state of efficiency is becoming increasingly costly, and it is small wonder that Guardians who feel the pinch of increasing rates and taxes should question whether all this expense is justifiable. If, however, public bodies undertake the care of the sick and infirm, such care must be efficient, but the point will no doubt be raised in the future, whether poor-law infirmaries should not be maintained by the State rather than out of local taxes. It is possible also that such a plan might result in some economy, for the waste and extravagance in the conduct of some infirmaries is scandalous, and we are of opinion that thousands might be saved in the course of a year if due regard were paid to the right definition of the terms *meum* and *tuum*. The whole of which facts go to show that poor-law nursing is at present in a disorganized condition, and that the more

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