

at which several of the members of the Matrons' Council were present and took an active part. The Council had sent Miss Mollett to the Congress as its delegate, she herself attended in a private capacity, but as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and as President of the Matrons' Council, she received the greatest courtesy and hospitality. Indeed all those who attended the Congress from this country met with an enormous amount of kindness. As this was the first time that the Council had met in Conference since this Congress, the President thought it would be of interest to say something of her experiences. In addition to attending the Congress she had visited the leading hospitals in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and other large cities; and had learned a great deal, and seen much of interest. She advised all the members present to pay a visit to America when possible. They would, she said, learn an enormous amount, and would come home very contented with their own positions. Her experience of the Superintendents of the Training Schools in America was that they were extremely charming, clever, and wide-minded women, but their duties were principally confined to the supervision of the Training School, they were not, as in our own hospitals, the chief officers in charge of the domestic department. In some hospitals the office of Superintendent, answering to that of Secretary in our own hospitals, was filled by a trained nurse, and several of the Matrons of the smaller hospitals filled this position. With regard to the Congress meetings proper, which were of great interest, what struck her perhaps most was the keen interest which the large body of nurses present took in their profession as a profession. Every American nurse seemed not only to have plenty of ideas, but to be eager to formulate them. As to the papers presented, they were good to read, but they were better to hear, and none of those present would soon forget the inspiration of the occasion.

The President also briefly mentioned the chief points of interest in connection with the Council during the present year. It had authorized the formation of branches, had carried out the preliminary organization of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, had deputed one of its members, Mrs. Wates, late Matron of the Lewisham Infirmary, to give evidence on its behalf before the Committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board to inquire into the conditions of nursing in workhouse infirmaries, and had been in communication with Mr. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., and with various public bodies on the subject of the Midwives Bill now before Parliament. In conclusion she referred with regret to

the death of Miss Shirley, the Lady Superintendent of the Staffordshire Nurses' Institution, Stoke-on-Trent, who from the foundation of the Council had been one of its warmest supporters, and who had won the respect and affection of all who were brought into personal contact with her.

The President then called upon Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., the reader of the first paper, to address the meeting. His valuable and interesting paper, which we print in another column, on the Hot-Air Treatment of Chronic Deafness was much appreciated, one member coming all the way from Lancashire and returning the same day on purpose to hear it. Mr. Yearsley showed the apparatus used in connection with the treatment described, and at the conclusion of the paper answered various questions asked by members concerning it. The next paper, by Miss Helen Todd, Matron of the National Sanatorium for Consumption, Bournemouth, on the Nursing of Tuberculosis, was interesting and practically instructive, and with Miss Mollett's paper on Nursing Ethics, which followed it, raised animated discussion. We hope next week to print these valuable papers, as the pressure on our space prevents our doing so in this issue.

#### THE EVENT OF THE DAY.

At the close of the lively discussion on Miss Mollett's paper, the President rose, and said she had a pleasant duty to perform in presenting to Miss Breay a purse of gold, subscribed by the members of the Matrons' Council, in appreciation of the devoted and able manner in which Miss Breay had performed her duties as Hon. Secretary to the Council for the past five years. The proposition that Miss Breay's work should receive some mark of appreciation had been suggested by Miss Mollett, and had been most heartily responded to by the majority of members. Miss Stewart then handed to Miss Breay a pretty chain purse containing twenty-two sovereigns, amidst the enthusiastic applause of those present. Miss Breay, in accepting the purse, warmly thanked the Council for its most kind gift, and the President for her kind words, and said that the Council had interpreted in a most generous way the work she had tried to do rather than that which she had actually performed. That work had been throughout a great pleasure to her, for the Matrons' Council stood for all which she, as a nurse, cared most about. She held it an honour to be allowed to share in forwarding its work, and until some one better could be found she hoped to have the pleasure of continuing to act as its Hon. Secretary. The work had brought her into contact with many pleasant people, and had been the means of many pleasant acquaintanceships. Once more she begged to thank the members for their most kind gift.

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