

The Matrons' Council.

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The Annual Report having been adopted, the Council transacted the following business :—

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership were then considered and accepted from—

Miss L. Gaved-Wills, Lady Superintendent, The Hospital, Newark-on-Trent, Notts.

Miss Helen F. Cameron, Matron, Isolation Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire.

Miss Janet F. Moyne, Matron, County Infirmary, Limerick, Ireland.

ELECTION OF HON. OFFICERS.

Miss Mollett, whose period of office as Vice-Chairman had terminated, was unanimously elected a councillor. A member was, subject to her consent to act, nominated as Vice-Chairman, and Miss J. A. Smith (Kingston Union Infirmary), Miss Ross (Western Fever Hospital), Miss Richmond (Hospital for Women, Birmingham), Miss Richardson (The Infirmary, Stockport), and Miss Haughton (Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin), who expressed their willingness to act, were elected members of the Executive Committee.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Council, was unanimously appointed to represent it on the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The representation of nurses at the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Berlin in 1904 was then considered, and after considerable discussion a sub-committee was appointed to consider and report upon the most desirable form of organisation.

THE REGISTRATION MOVEMENT.

The advancement of the Registration movement was next considered, and it was decided that the question should be brought forward in all its details at the Annual Conference of the Council, to be held in London in May.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolution was then considered and carried unanimously :—

“That the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, an Association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses, desires to draw the attention of Medical Bodies to the assumption of nursing responsibilities by untrained persons, and their constant conviction

for criminal offences, and in view of the discredit consequently brought upon well-trained nurses, to urge Medical Bodies to consider the matter.”

On the proposition of the President, the following resolution was also adopted, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to forward it to the President of the Local Government Board :—

“That in the opinion of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, an Association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses, the granting of a certificate and the title of “Qualified Nurse” by the Local Government Board to probationers after one year's training, would be an injustice to those probationers, by the bestowal of a certificate which is misleading, and would also be unfair to fully-qualified nurses and to sick persons. This Council, therefore, ventures to hope that the recommendation of the Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board to inquire into the Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses, as to the creation of an inferior class of nurses, may not be carried into effect.”

LETTER TO BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

The President then placed before the Council the following letter which had been prepared for its consideration, and said that if authorised by the Council she would be pleased to sign it on its behalf. The promotion of the educational interests of nurses had always been an important part of the work of the Matrons' Council, and she thought that the time had come when definite steps should be taken to secure the co-operation of educational authorities in instituting a course of post-graduate instruction for nurses who wish to qualify for the higher posts in their profession.

TO THE COUNCIL OF BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Bedford College has always been in the forefront in advancing the educational interests of women, and it is therefore with confidence that, as President of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and on its behalf, I am writing to place before you a point of much educational importance to the nursing profession, assured of a sympathetic hearing, and hopeful of practical assistance.

The Matrons' Council, on its foundation in 1894, adopted as one of its objects :—“To bring about a uniform system of education . . . for nurses in British hospitals.” The organisation of the profession of nursing is a growth of the last half century, and much yet remains to be effected before an efficient curriculum of nursing education can be considered in any sense complete. Excellent instruction in the practical details of nursing work is now afforded by many nurse-training schools, but it is becoming increasingly apparent to experienced superintendents that, following upon the three years' practical work, a further course of instruction is necessary to qualify nurses who show evidence of executive ability for the higher posts in the nursing world. Our hospitals are, in fact, schools of nursing, and the Superintendents of Training-Schools and Sisters of Wards need not only to be able to perform nursing duties skilfully

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