

the attention of medical bodies to the assumption of nursing responsibilities by untrained persons, and their constant conviction for criminal offences, and urging these bodies to consider the matter, was sent to the General Medical Council, and considered at the next meeting of its Executive Committee, which has intimated that the matter does not come within the statutory duties of the Medical Council. The resolution has also been sent to the President of the British Medical Association, who courteously wrote to say that he had made arrangements for the wishes of the Matrons' Council to be complied with, and that the resolution should be brought before the Annual Meeting of that Association at the end of July.

The resolution passed at the Annual Meeting deprecating the recommendation of the Departmental Committee on the Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses, that nurses trained in Minor Schools should be certified as qualified at the end of a year's training, has been forwarded to the President of the Local Government Board and acknowledged by that Department.

The request of the Matrons' Council to the Council of Bedford College for Women, that it would take into consideration the establishment of a Course in Hospital Economics which should be available for nurses who during their training show evidence of executive ability, with a view to their further qualification for higher posts in the nursing world, received courteous attention on the part of the College authorities. The Secretary of the Council wrote:—"My Council is very willing to consider your application, which is in the interests of the higher education of women." Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Matrons' Council, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Senior Councillor, subsequently attended, on March 5th, by invitation of the College, a meeting of its Board of Education to confer with it upon the subject.

It will be remembered that on the invitation of the British Gynæcological Society a sub-committee of the Matrons' Council was appointed to confer with a sub-committee of that Society on the present facilities for the education of nurses in obstetrical and gynæcological nursing, and that that Society subsequently acknowledged in cordial terms the advice and assistance received. The British Gynæcological Society has now decided to institute examinations in these subjects, and, in announcing the conditions, goes on record:—

1. In requiring evidence of general as well as special training of candidates for its examination.

2. In having invited Matrons of Maternity Hospitals and Hospitals for Women to act as examiners in practical nursing—a courtesy on the part of the medical profession to the allied profession of nursing which will be appreciated by the members of this Council.

The Society has also paid the Matrons' Council the compliment of inviting your Hon. Secretary to take a seat on the Board dealing with this subject, and to assist it in the conduct of its examinations.

The report was unanimously adopted.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Secretary then reported letters of regret at inability to attend from absent members. She also read the following letter from Mrs. Grace

Neill, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals and Deputy Registrar of Nurses in New Zealand:—

"Thank you for conveying to me the congratulations of the Matrons' Council at our having achieved State Registration for Nurses. It has not been altogether an easy task to carry out the provisions of the Act during the first year of operation. However, we are now, in 1903, in comparatively smooth water, and by this mail I send Mrs. Bedford Fenwick our first published list of State Registered Nurses."

Miss Glover, Hon. Sec. of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, wrote, in reference to a resolution congratulating the Association on the work of the year—

"Your letter of congratulation was placed before my Council at their last meeting, and I was instructed to thank you, and say how much your appreciation was valued by them."

A later letter from Miss Glover to the Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council contained a request from the Council of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association that she would contribute any important nursing items connected with the Matrons' Council to the Nurses' Journal of that Association. Miss Brey was authorised to accede to this request.

In this connection she reported that both the Australasian and the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association have issued the first numbers of their quarterly journals, which were on the table for the inspection of members.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership were then considered and accepted from:—

Miss Kate Hunt, Lady Superintendent, the Ipswich Nurses' Home, Ipswich.

Miss Irene Webb, Matron, Borough Isolation Hospital, Leicester.

Miss C. Alice Barling, Matron, Borough Sanatorium, Folkestone.

Miss Emmie Dreyer, Matron, Evan Fraser Hospital, Sutton, Hull.

Miss Florence Kidd, Lady Superintendent, Stockton on Tees and Thornaby District Nursing Association, Stockton-on-Tees.

Miss Margaret Burgess, Borough Sanatorium, St. Helen's, Lancs.

The meeting then terminated.

### The Central Midwives' Board.

Meetings of the Central Midwives' Board were held on May 7th, 12th, and 14th, when the drafting of the rules under Section 3 (1) of the Midwives' Act, 1902, was completed, and the Secretary was instructed to forward a copy to the Privy Council for their approval, together with some draft "Suggestions to County Councils."

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