

advice and suggestions which they received from your Committee.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,

CHARLES RYALL, Hon. Sec.  
Miss Margaret Brey, Hon. Sec. The Matrons'  
Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on May 29th. The President was in the chair, and the following papers were presented and discussed:—

1. The New Treatment by Heat of Chronic Ear Disease. By Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S.
2. The Nursing of Tuberculosis. By Miss Helen Todd.
3. Nursing Ethics. By Miss Mollett.

The following morning the quarterly business meeting was held at Morley Hall, at which the Registration Committee presented a report, and subsequently the Matrons' Council handed over this work to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

#### THE NURSING DIRECTORY.

The eleventh annual issue of the Nursing Directory has been published under the authority of the Council. The importance of this branch of the Council's work cannot be over-estimated, and the co-operation of all the members is invited, both in bringing the Directory to the notice of nurses who are eligible for admission, and by furnishing the Hon. Secretary with nursing information of general interest, such as the formation of new nursing societies and Leagues, or of the extension of the nursing curriculum in the training-schools.

#### THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

The Council desires to record its thanks to the Editor of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for the free space accorded in its columns to the reports of meetings of the Matrons' Council.

#### WORK OF MEMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

In New South Wales, the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, of which Miss McGahey, Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council, is Hon. Secretary, is doing excellent work in nursing organisation, and in improving the standard of nursing education. The Council of the Association has drawn up regulations dealing with the recognition of hospitals and the training and certification of nurses, and requires a report from each recognised hospital, giving details of the work carried out, at the end of each year.

The Victorian Trained Nurses' Association states that the movement for establishing a uniform system of training, examination, and registration of nurses has been successfully inaugurated and

accepted throughout the country. It has published a list of hospitals recognised by its Council as Training Schools for Nurses, has instituted an independent examination, and appointed a conjoint board of medical and nursing examiners.

Friendly negotiations with the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association have resulted in the establishment of a basis for uniform as well as reciprocal action in regard to the registration of members, and their removal from the Register for breaches of discipline, the recognition of hospitals as training-schools, and the withdrawal of recognition when the teaching is deemed insufficient and unsatisfactory, or for other reasons.

One of the first examiners in nursing appointed is Miss Amy L. Burleigh, Matron of the Melbourne Hospital, and a member of the Matrons' Council, and Miss Glover, the Hon. Secretary of the Society, is also a member of the Council. Another influential member of the Society is Miss M. D. Farquharson, one of our Hon. Members.

#### TRANSACTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.

The Transactions of the International Congress of Nurses, together with the Reports presented to the International Council of Nurses, have now been published in book form, and the fact that the Committee on Publication consisted of Mrs. Hampton Robb and Miss L. L. Dock and Miss Maud Banfield (all of whom we are proud to claim as members of the Matrons' Council) is a guarantee that the work has been well done. The book forms a valuable work of reference, and the most complete history of trained nursing yet published.

The report was unanimously adopted.

(To be continued.)

### The Colney Hatch Disaster.

The community has been appalled by the magnitude of the disaster, involving a terrible loss of life amongst the patients at the Colney Hatch Asylum, where a temporary wing, constructed of most inflammable materials, was entirely consumed by fire within an hour.

From the plan of the buildings the place appears a veritable death-trap, and the public will await with considerable curiosity the names of those responsible for certifying the annexe as a safe and suitable building in which to lock up the helpless insane.

A gleam of consolation is, however, to be gathered in connection with this awful holocaust, and it is the universal testimony to the devotion and courage of the whole asylum staff. It is reported by eye-witnesses that their conduct was most gallant, and resulted in saving innumerable lives. The daring and dash of the women attendants in rescuing the poor mad people has called forth unstinted praise.

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