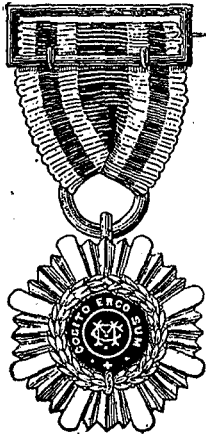


## The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.



The quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., on Thursday in last week. Eighteen members attended. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary then read the following

### REPORT.

The most important event of the year has been the Conference convened by the Matrons' Council and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and held at 20, Hanover Square, on May 8th, when Miss Louisa Stevenson presided and opened the proceedings by asking Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to read a letter from America, which stated that Registration Bills had been passed in four of the United States. After this inspiring announcement Miss Stevenson gave her Presidential Address, dealing principally with the development of nursing, the value of good nursing as a basis of physical health, the question of training, and the affiliation of hospitals. Papers were then presented on various aspects of the Registration question, viz. :—

- Registration as it affects General Hospitals. By Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Matrons' Council.
- Registration as it affects Poor Law Infirmaries. By Miss E. C. Barton.
- Registration as it affects Special Hospitals. By Mrs. Matthews.
- Registration as it affects the Graduate Nurse. By Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.
- Registration from the point of view of a State-Registered Nurse. By Miss Janet Speed, of New Zealand.

A resolution was passed authorising the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to draft a Bill for discussion; such Bill after approval by the members of the Society to be submitted to hospital committees, and medical and nursing bodies.

In connection with the suggested courses in Hospital Economics, the President has received the following communication from Miss Hurlbatt, the Principal of Bedford College :—

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.  
(University of London.)  
York Place, Baker Street, W.,  
July 21st, 1903.

DEAR MISS STEWART,—I must apologise for not having written sooner to let you know the decision of my Council on the subject of suggested Courses in Hospital Economics.

In view of all the evidence received, chiefly from you and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, my Council cannot undertake any financial outlay, as they do not think there is any actual demand at the moment to justify them in establishing special courses.

As a first step it has been decided to circulate to Matrons, hospital committees, and nursing societies, information of our existing Hygiene Course, with a letter saying that we are anxious to make our teaching of use to the nursing profession, and that we believe that the course may in part meet the needs of nurses seeking higher qualifications, and also inviting co-operation and suggestions.

This was my original suggestion, and I hope it may be of some practical use. Probably a term or a year may be spent in this sounding of opinion, but we believe it will be well spent if it results in obtaining further evidence of the readiness on the part of the nursing world to seek the co-operation of the College in developing courses on the lines so ably indicated by you.

We greatly appreciate and sympathise with the desire of your Council to see improved the education of the members of a great profession for women, and we are glad to think that you should have sought the help of this College with a view to furthering your objects. I hope to communicate with you again as soon as I have any information to give as to the results of our first effort.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL HURLBATT, Principal.

A letter has also been received from Miss Hurlbatt enclosing particulars of the Course of Scientific Hygiene given at this College, suggesting that the Course may in part meet the needs of nurses seeking higher qualifications, and intimating the desire of the authorities to receive any opinion we may wish to offer on the subject.

The International Council of Women meets in Congress in Berlin in June, 1904, and, as this is so much earlier than is anticipated, it is desirable that the Matrons' Council should consider how it is to be represented on this occasion. As the Women's Congress Committee has allotted a session in which to discuss nursing, to prevent overlapping the International Council of Nurses does not propose to hold a General Congress on Nursing, but reports will be specially invited, from experts in the various countries represented in the I. C. N., on :—

1. *Legislation* effected for Trained Nurses—
  - (a) By State Registration ;
  - (b) Under Government Departments in the Army and the Navy.
2. *Education.*

To define a curriculum of education and a minimum standard qualifying for registration as a trained nurse.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Secretary reported letters of regret at inability to be present from Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of the Military Nursing Service, Miss Maud Moore (London), Mrs. Wates (Lewisham), Miss Elma Smith (Hendon), Miss Hay Forbes (Axminster), Miss Irene Webb (Leicester), Miss M. A. Buckingham (Rotherham), Miss A.

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