

ing bodies, and women's societies, inviting their consideration of its Clauses.

A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

The suggestion made by the Matrons' Council to promote the organisation of a National Memorial to the Nursing Sisters who died in the South African War received sympathetic notices in the daily Press. Further action has so far remained in abeyance owing to the fact that all the honorary officers have been so much engaged in work for the Registration Bill.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The thanks of the Council are due to Lady Roberts-Austen, who, at short notice, kindly undertook to represent it at the meeting of the National Council of Women held at Cheltenham in November last. On behalf of the Council she seconded the resolution, proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and carried unanimously, whereby members of affiliated societies, such as the Matrons' Council, become members of the National Council of Women.

Central Midwives' Board.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, Dr. F. H. Champneys in the chair, held at the Board Room, 6, Suffolk Street, S.W., on January 28th, the following business was transacted:—

1. On the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Board adopted three sets of questions to be addressed respectively to those applying for approval or recognition in the following capacities:—

- (a) Institutions applying for approval of their certificate, or for recognition as approved institutions under Section C 1 of the rules.
- (b) Registered medical practitioners seeking recognition as teachers under Section C 1 (3).
- (c) Certified midwives applying to be approved for the purpose of signing Forms III. and IV. under Section C 1 (2).

2. The following applications for recognition as approved institutions under Section C 1 of the rules were granted:—

- National Maternity Hospital, Dublin.
- Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital.
- City of London Lying-in Hospital.

3. The following application for recognition as a teacher under Section C 1 (3) of the rules was granted:—

John W. Fordham, jun., M.R.C.S.

4. A letter was read from Dr. E. Hastings Tweedy, the Master of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, calling the attention of the Board to the practical impossibility of pupil midwives trained in the Rotunda complying with the requirements of Section C:—Rule 1. Sub-section (1): (personal conduction of twenty cases); and Sub-section (2):

(ten days' puerperium). It was hoped that the curriculum of the Rotunda might be accepted as an equivalent to the course of training prescribed by the rules, or that such exception or modification might be made as would enable the Rotunda nurses to qualify for the Board's examination.

After consideration of the subject it was unanimously resolved:—

"That, having considered the letter addressed to them by the Master of the Rotunda Hospital, the Board regret that the suggested alterations were not brought to their notice before the rules were sent to the Privy Council, as having been approved by that body it is impossible for the Board to alter them."

5. A letter of similar purport was read from Professor Byers, Physician to the Incorporated Belfast Maternity Hospital, and a copy of the foregoing resolution was ordered to be sent in reply.

6. After consideration of applications for certificates the names of 1,040 women were passed under Section 2 of the Act, and ordered for entry on the Roll. Of this total 269 claimed as holding the certificate of the Obstetrical Society of London, fourteen that of the Rotunda Hospital, twenty-six that of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, fourteen that of the Glasgow Maternity Hospital, fourteen that of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, two that of the Liverpool Lying-in Hospital, one that of the Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital, one that of the City of London Lying-in Hospital, and 699 were admitted as having been in *bona-fide* practice for one year prior to July 31st, 1902.

The Registration Bill of the R. B. N. A.

As we reported last week, the Registration Bill of the Royal British Nurses' Association provides not only for the Better Training and Registration of Nurses, but also for the Voluntary Registration of Private Nursing Homes.

The clause providing for such registration aroused considerable discussion.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick pointed out that the Registration of Nursing Homes, although very necessary, was no part of the work of a Board charged with the purification and good government of the profession of nursing, and she protested against nurses bearing the expense of this work. It should be performed by a Government or Municipal department. The duties entailed would be troublesome and expensive, and nurses ought not to be called upon to pay the cost.

Dr. Comyns Berkeley said that the Homes would be charged a registration fee, but Mrs. Fenwick was of opinion that unless the fee were fixed at a high rate it would not cover the expense entailed. If, for instance, a Home were removed from the Register, heavy legal expenses in defending the action of the Board would probably be incurred. She moved that the clause referring to the Registration of Nursing Homes be deleted.

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