

The Nurses' Conversazione.

The Conversazione organised by the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses and held at the Galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists on Thursday in last week was a very informal and pleasant affair.

The hostesses were Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Society for State Registration; Miss Isla Stewart, Matrons' Council; Mrs. Shuter, Bart.'s League; Miss Barton (Hon. Secretary Provisional Committee), Chelsea League; Miss Brewerton (Matron, Zanzibar Hospital), St. John's House League; Miss S. E. Cartwright, Registered Nurses Society; Miss J. A. Smith, Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss Lena Sherlock, Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss Loveridge, Parish of Nottingham League; Miss C. Haldane, Royal South Hants Nurses' League; Miss E. S. Haldane, (Chairman of the Scottish Registration Committee) for Scotland; Miss Huxley (late President), Irish Nurses' Association, and the Lady Hermione Blackwood, (President of the Ulster Branch) for Ireland. Among the guests were Miss Brayshay, Hon. Sec. Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association; Miss Rosalind Paget, Central Midwives' Board; Miss Amy Hughes, Miss Hadden, Miss Böge, Miss Welch, Miss Wright, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute; Miss Hayes and Miss Alldridge, London Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission; Miss Helen Pearse, Matron, Great Northern Hospital; Miss Andrew and Miss Smith, Asylum Workers' Association; Miss E. M. Roberts, late Lady Superintendent Nurses' Co-operation; Mrs. Bennett, London Association of Nurses; Miss Malim, Kensington Infirmary, and Miss Hannaford, Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum; Miss Ross and Miss Villiers, Met. Asylums' Board Hospitals and many Matrons of London and Provincial Hospitals, as well as contingents of nurses from most of the affiliated Leagues and societies, and many nurses from the London hospitals and infirmaries and nursing societies.

Fraulein Karl, President of the German Nurses' Association; and Madame Alphen Salvador (Paris), and many other friends wrote, extremely regretting their inability to attend, and hoping to be present on a future occasion.

The Galleries made a very pretty setting for the gathering, the beautiful pictures attracting much attention. The many charming evening dresses and the variety of nursing uniforms added greatly to the picturesqueness of the scene, and there was no stiffness or formality, all the Matrons and nurses present appreciating the opportunity of thus meeting together and proving the sisterly feeling which underlies

the movement for national co-operation. The music of the London Viennese Band, conducted by Mr. Algernon Clarke, added greatly to the gaiety of the soirée, and ultimately became absolutely irresistible. Someone from the land of cakes patriotically suggested the dancing of a reel. Alas, this could not be arranged, but the strains of a waltz gave the necessary impetus, and as if by magic Terpsichore's devotees floated away to the mellifluous sound. When Miss Stewart and Miss Huxley were seen gracefully revolving in unison few hesitated, and dancing became general.

Eleven o'clock struck all too soon, all agreeing that this very happy gathering must be made an annual feature of the National Council's programme.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

The last issue of the *Broad Arrow*—the Naval and Military Gazette—contains an attack upon the organisation of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

The principal objections advanced are as follows:—

The requirement of a "social status" qualification.

The excess of women nurses over the requirements of the Service.

Three-fourths of the patients in military hospitals require no female nursing.

There is a certain class of patients, at least a quarter of the number under treatment, to which nursing sisters are not allowed access by the regulations.

The unequal preponderance of "females" on the Army Nursing Board, and the inadequate representation upon it of executive medical officers.

The regulation that as regards medical and sanitary matters and work in connection with the sick, the matrons, sisters, and staff nurses, are to be regarded as having authority in and about their hospitals next after the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and are at all times to be obeyed accordingly, and to receive the respect due to their position.

That many responsibilities connected with the military hospitals which formerly devolved on warrant and non-commissioned officers have now passed into the hands of the nurses.

That as the training of the orderlies is now in the hands of the nurses the training partakes more of a civil than of a military and active service nature. That the sisters and nurses being in excess of requirements busy themselves over trifles.

The fact that a Sister is required to look after each two Staff Nurses makes her a sort of Superintendent, and the Staff Nurses lack the interest they would have in their work if placed in entire charge of their cases.

That the elaborate lectures given by the nurses to the orderlies are of a theoretical nature, and the

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