

## ELECTION OF THE HON. SECRETARY.

Miss M. Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, Vice-President of the Council, and one of its earliest members, was then unanimously elected to the position of Hon. Secretary, and in accepting office said that she was happy and proud to do so. Of all the Associations to which she belonged the Matrons' Council was the one for which she had the greatest affection. Miss Mollett further spoke of the appreciation which she, in common with all the members, felt for the good work Miss Breay had done for the Matrons' Council, and doubted whether she herself could ever live up to the high standard of thoroughness, loyalty, and excellence Miss Breay had ever set before her. All regretted the necessity for Miss Breay's resignation, none more than she did. Miss Mollett concluded by saying that she felt proud to have the honour of following after Miss Breay.

A very cordial vote of thanks to Miss Breay was then proposed by Miss H. L. Pearse, and seconded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that she felt peculiarly pleased to second Miss Pearse's resolution, as she thought no one else was so well able to appreciate the immense amount of unknown and unnoticed work Miss Breay had done for the Council. She touched on the manner in which Miss Breay had spent her time ungrudgingly and without reserve in the service of the nursing profession, how she had single-handed accomplished work which might well have taxed a large secretarial staff. None knew better than she did the steady, unselfish, and loyal service Miss Breay had done to the cause and the Council.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's remarks were greeted with much applause, and the vote of thanks to Miss Breay was carried by acclamation.

Other details of business having been discussed, the meeting then terminated.

M. MOLLETT, *Hon. Secretary.*

## MATRONS IN CANADA.

At a recent meeting of the Canadian Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, held at London, Canada, Miss Tedford gave a most interesting account of the International Congress in England, in which she said: "We heard, saw, and felt a great deal." Miss Louise Brent, Miss Scott, and Miss Mackenzie were appointed a Commission to look into the whole question of morality in relation to health, as proposed at the Congress, and to report to the next meeting to be held at Toronto six months hence. Miss Louise Brent, Lady Superintendent, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, was elected President of the Society.

## Registration of Nurses.

## THE PAMPHLET OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN SCOTLAND.

We referred briefly last week to the Statement issued by the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland. We propose in this issue to deal with it in detail.

## WHY REGISTRATION IS DESIRED.

The pamphlet states that Registration is desired—"Because, if the public employ a registered nurse, they have a guarantee that they are obtaining the services of a nurse who is thoroughly equipped for her work."

It entirely misses the point that the mere fact of registration is not a guarantee of a nurse's efficiency. That guarantee is afforded only when the nurse is required to give evidence, to an unbiassed authority, of possessing the requisite practical and theoretical knowledge before admission to the Register, after a definite period of training, and not by the registration of hospital certificates. Thus Sir Victor Horsley, when addressing the Prime Minister, as representing the British Medical Association, said: "Of the three Bills before us, it is the principle involved in Bills 1 and 2 that the British Medical Association recommends. It is this: that the qualification of a nurse should no longer be at the mercy of private individuals and private institutions (lay hospital committees). The Association feels very strongly that the time has now come when it is in the interests of the public, as well as of the medical profession, as well as of the nurses themselves that a State guarantee should be given. The Scotch Bill has no such provision. It leaves the question of guarantee on qualification practically to the teacher alone. The British Medical Association feel that that guarantee ought to be furnished by a statutory council, with the control and proper examination."

## WILL REGISTRATION PROVE COSTLY?

The pamphlet makes the banal statement: "It is obvious that the machinery of registration cannot be maintained without some expense. There must, of necessity, be a registrar and a staff of clerks. There will also be an office. . . . The cost of registration per nurse need not exceed two guineas."

In addition to the Registrar, there must also be a Register, and to publish this Register annually and keep it correct will be costly, as is proved in the cases of the Medical Register, and the Midwives' Roll. It must further be remembered that nurses are a more migratory section of the community than either the medical profession or the midwives.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)