

Committee felt they were paying Miss Heather-Bigg a compliment in inviting her to succeed their dear founder, Miss Stewart, and they would not have done so had they not tested her devotion to the interests of the Council in the past, and felt sure that she would prove a loyal guide and support in the future. Miss Heather-Bigg was full of spirit and charm, and had all the personal qualities most needed to uphold the position, and it was with the very greatest pleasure she proposed her election as President.

The proposition having been seconded, it was carried by acclamation,

Miss Musson then vacated the chair, and Miss Heather-Bigg took her place, and thanked the Council most heartily for the honour they had done her. She said that Miss Stewart's brilliant powers had made her an ideal President, but she would do her best for the Council, and endeavour to justify their choice of a President.

Miss Houghton, Matron of Guy's Hospital, London, and Miss Musson, Matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham, were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

The suggested alterations of the By-laws were then considered, and several minor alterations in the same agreed to.

On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee it was agreed that the President should hold office for a term of three years, and should not be eligible for re-election for a further term of the same period.

The By-Law governing the election of Vice-Presidents was also altered, and is now to the effect that the Vice-Presidents shall not exceed twelve in number, of whom four shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election.

It was also decided that the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer shall both for the future retire annually, but be eligible for re-election.

Applications for membership were then considered, and the following ladies were elected: Miss Maud Pote Hunt, Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, Kent; Miss Anne McFarlane, Matron, The Infirmary and Children's Hospital, Kidderminster; Miss Winnill, Matron, The Children's Infirmary, Carshalton, Surrey.

Letters of resignation were received from Miss Deane, Matron, East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich, and Miss Lucy Smith, formerly Matron of the Roehdale Fever Hospital. They were received with regret.

Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Force Nursing Service, was elected to represent the Council at the forthcoming meeting of the National Union of Women Workers at Lincoln.

Miss Barton, of Chelsea Infirmary, was elected to fill the vacancy on the Central Registration of Nurses Committee, caused by the death of Miss Isla Stewart.

The Hon. Secretary gave notice that the revised by-laws would be published in the next Annual Report.

The business meeting then terminated, and tea and coffee were served, the Sisters and nurses being untiring in their efforts to secure the comfort of the guests.

A public meeting followed, when the room, which seated over 150 persons, was crowded.

M. MOLLETT,
Hon. Secretary.

The Public Meeting.

STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

At the public meeting which followed the business meeting of the Matrons' Council, Miss Musson presided, and said how extremely glad she was to welcome those present. As the time was short she at once asked Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to address the meeting on the subject of State Registration of Nurses.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick opened her address by thanking Miss Musson for so kindly arranging the meeting. It was twenty years since her first visit to Birmingham in connection with the movement for State Registration of Nurses, and it had passed in a flash. Many people expected to achieve great reforms the day after to-morrow, and were discouraged by delay. This was not the history of the registration movement. It was encouraging to nurses who thought that legislation for the organisation of their profession was long delayed to remember that the medical profession worked and fought hard for 50 years before the first Medical Act was passed, and the editor of the newspaper which voiced the demand for legislation had to fight two duels and had his house burnt down during that period.

Some people were apt to think that there had been no nursing before the Crimean War. This was not so. There had always been noble and sympathetic women who cared for humanity at large, including the sick. From the Crimean War we could date the genius of Florence Nightingale, whose work for sick soldiers was an incident; it was the fact that she founded nursing on a scientific basis which would keep her name illustrious for all time. She realised that medicine and nursing were interdependent, and that nurses must be efficiently educated to keep pace with the progress demanded from them by medical science, therefore she founded the Nightingale School for Nurses in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital, and laid the foundations of the profession of nursing.

Thirty years ago the condition of nursing was relatively as good as that of medicine. Lister and Lund had only just evolved their wonderful system, which demonstrated cleanliness as the basis of the sciences of medicine and nursing. But within the last 30 years medicine has progressed so

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