

Conference of Queen's Superintendents and Inspectors.

Miss Rosalind Paget presided over the Eighth Annual Conference of the Metropolitan and Southern Counties Association of "Queen's Superintendents and Inspectors" on Wednesday, April 5th. Some 70 members were present, including Miss Hughes, General Superintendent, who is Hon. President of the Association, and Miss Macqueen, Nursing Superintendent for England. After a pleasant lunch at Messrs. Gorrings's Tea Rooms, Buckingham Palace Road, adjournment was made to the offices of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, where, by kind permission of the Council, the meeting was held.

The first subject on the agenda, "Co-operation between district nurses, hospitals, and public health authorities," produced an animated and most interesting discussion. Miss Macqueen proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Miss Curtis, Superintendent, Hammersmith:—

"That hospital authorities be approached with a view to considering a scheme by which to lessen the economic waste and loss of time caused by the present want of complete co-operation between hospitals, infirmaries, dispensaries, and district nursing associations."

In the course of the debate it was very clearly shown that the want of co-operation is much more acute in London than in provincial towns, many of the superintendents from such towns as Brighton, Bedford, Cardiff, and Reading being able to report most satisfactory co-ordination of their own work with that of the local hospital and its out-patient department. The resolution was unanimously passed, and the arrangement of another meeting to further consider the subject left in the hands of the Committee.

Miss Eden, who was present by special invitation, then introduced the subject of the Nurses' Social Union, in the development of which many Queen's Superintendents are interested, and gave an outline of its objects and aims, with which the Conference showed much sympathy. Miss Hughes spoke of the "League of Empire," and urged that nurses should take some special part in its organisation, seeing how closely linked they are with fellow workers in every part of the Empire. It was suggested that the machinery for enabling Queen's Nurses to participate in the scheme of the League might be supplied through the medium of the Nurses' Social Union, to which Miss Eden heartily agreed.

The last half-hour was devoted to "Questions," and at the close of the Conference tea

was served by kind invitation of some members of the Committee of the Institute. Several members of the Council were present, including the Hon. Mrs. C. Egerton, Mrs. Minet, and Mrs. Byron.

The Trained Maternity Nurses' Association.

By the invitation of Mrs. Robinson, President of the Union of Midwives, a meeting of Maternity Nurses was held at the office of the Union, at 33, Strand, London, on April 5th.

Miss Marks was in the chair, and Mrs. Robinson welcomed those present, and explained in her sympathetic way the objects of the meeting. She spoke of the necessity for union amongst maternity nurses to maintain good standards, supported the State Registration movement, and suggested the formation of the Trained Maternity Nurses' Association.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who was present, was invited to speak, and said that the ultimate aim of those nurses wishing to practise maternity nursing should be, by proving the value of a voluntary association, to aim at having maternity nurses, included in one of the qualifying curricula which would be evolved by a Central Nursing Council under a Registration of Nurses Act. Doubtless there would be several such curricula—one including fever nursing, one maternity nursing—as every nurse should secure a sound basis of general training, and add specialities besides. There was not time to include every branch of nursing in a three years' course, and in no branch was it more important to specialise than in maternity work, because of the danger of sepsis to the lying-in woman.

A voluntary association could do much—it could tabulate the training schools, and their various courses and cost, so that those entering Lying-in hospitals for training could know before hand exactly what teaching they would receive for fees paid. Bring pressure to bear to enforce efficient training, give information and work from a centre, encourage sympathetic co-operation, and in many other ways.

It was agreed that The Trained Maternity Nurses' Association should be formed, and the following ladies were elected:—

Mrs. Robinson, President; Mrs. Binnie, as Secretary and Treasurer; and Miss Marks, Miss Lay, Miss Montgomery, Miss Talbot, and Miss Gathercole were elected on the Committee.

A very pretty design for a badge, with the letters T.M.N.A. inscribed on a silver shield, was approved.

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