

in camera a proposition by Mr. Howel Davies adjourned from the June meeting:—

“(a) That a sub-committee be appointed to consider all applications from candidates for probationer nurses, who shall recommend candidates to the House Committee, as and when vacancies occur, and that all regulations to the contrary be rescinded; (b) that a register of candidates be kept by the matron and submitted to the sub-committee when required.”

We learn that a most animated discussion took place for nearly an hour and a half. Mr. Davies pointed out that at present the selection of the probationers lay practically in the hands of the matron, which, he considered, was inadvisable.

Drs. Lancaster, Brook, Knight and Elsworth opposed the adoption of the proposal. In the result Mr. Davies' proposal A was defeated by a narrow majority, but his proposal B was carried.

Had (a) of the proposition been adopted, we imagine, a notice of motion would have been handed in to rescind the necessity for a matron—as it appears superfluous to pay and employ an officer, whose chief duty is to be undertaken by a sub-committee. The chief nursing officer should select and recommend to the committee for appointment all subordinate nursing officials. Unless she possesses the power and discrimination to perform this duty, she cannot maintain discipline, nor should she hold office. The tendency in these days of hospital managers to minimise the matron's rightful authority and appoint weak women who are satisfied to accept a salary and let things slide, is a sign of degeneration in hospital management, and an evidence of a spirit of intolerance in so far as women's skilled work is concerned. Imagine the household conducted upon this principle. The Matrons' Council might well define the relations which should exist between the committee of a public hospital and the chief nursing officer. We believe it would be found very useful by conscientious hospital governors.

The great work done by Miss Fraser in establishing a thorough system of nursing at the Dunedin Hospital, is recognised throughout New Zealand with gratitude, and is a great advantage to her successor, Miss Mackenzie, who thinks that the training is so up-to-date that it would compare favourably with any of our hospitals in Britain. Dunedin she finds a lovely “garden city,” built on the hillside, and says: “I have received nothing but kindness on every hand; it is difficult for me to realise

that I am so far from home.” On the journey out Miss Mackenzie visited the hospitals at Adelaide, Melbourne, and Hobart.

THE MIDLANDS ASSOCIATION OF MATRONS AND SUPERINTENDENTS.

The first meeting of the session will be held at the General Hospital, Birmingham, by invitation of the Matron, Miss Musson (President of the Association).

Business: To receive report of the Hon Secretary; to elect Hon. Officers for the year; Discussion: “State Aid as it would affect Nurses.”

The Association was formed a year ago, for the purpose of social intercourse and the discussion of professional topics, and numbers at present about 50 members.

Six meetings have been held at different institutions during the year.

The annual subscription of 1s. is now due.

Matrons or Superintendents of hospitals, Poor Law infirmaries, fever hospitals and nursing institutions, Matrons of asylums who are trained nurses, or who hold the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, are eligible for membership. Any who have not yet joined, and wish to do so, are invited to write to the Hon. Secretary, Miss de Chastelain, the Jaffray Hospital, Erdington, Birmingham.

FEVER NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

We have received from the Hon. Secretaries of the Fever Nurses' Association a copy of its first printed list of members, and of nurses certificated by the Association. It is an attractive booklet, in a cloth cover of a soft shade of blue, with gold lettering, and cannot fail to be most useful to all who are interested in the status and efficiency of nurses trained in infectious work. We publish in our correspondence columns a letter on the subject from Dr. Biernacki, Joint Hon. Secretary, which we commend to the attention of our readers.

The names of Matrons and Nurses contained in the booklet afford ample evidence that they are aware of the value of membership of the Association. The register has been issued in conformity with the second object of the Association, which provides for the publication of the names of nurses who have conformed to its requirements.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)