

## THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Wednesday, January 17th, at 3 p.m. There was a good attendance of members from all parts of the country. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Miss Heather-Bigg, the chair was taken by Miss Beatrice Cutler.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Spencer, presented the financial report which showed a balance in hand at the close of the financial year of £5 10s. 11d.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss Mollett, then presented the Annual Report, which showed that 29 new members had been elected during the year.

Applications for membership were then considered and the following members elected:—

Miss Blagney, Matron, General Infirmary, Chester.

Miss Tait Mackay, Superintendent, Cornwall County Nursing Association.

Miss Muriel, Matron, Maternity Nursing Association, 63, Myddleton Square, W.C.

Miss Parker, Matron, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

Miss Parsloe, Woodlands Convalescent Home, Rawdon, Leeds.

The appointment of a fraternal delegate to the International Congress of Nurses at Cologne was then considered, and Miss Mollett was unanimously appointed to represent the Council as a fraternal delegate.

Miss Mollett, after having expressed her thanks for the honour done her, reported that she had made enquiries as to travelling arrangements and accommodation in Cologne for 7 days, and having obtained terms from Messrs. Thomas Cook's Agency she was prepared to arrange for a party of not less than 50 travelling out together from London to Cologne, first class steamer and second class rail, at a cost of £7 for the 7 days, to include gratuities. There would be provided for this, plain breakfast, lunch and dinner, rooms, lights and service at a good grade hotel, but it was improbable that single rooms could be obtained for the majority of the party.

Miss Mollett also reported that the South Eastern Railway were prepared to issue tickets to and from Cologne at a cost of £2 5s. return for parties of twenty, but the former scheme was preferred.

The place of the next meeting was considered and it was agreed to ask Miss Macintyre, of Wigan, who had expressed the hope that the

Matrons' Council would be able to arrange to hold a meeting there, whether she would be willing to arrange for it in April.

The business meeting then terminated, and tea was served. It was hoped after tea to have an address on the Nursing of Venereal Diseases from Mrs. Florence Willey, M.D., but, by some unfortunate misunderstanding as to the date, Dr. Willey was not present. She has therefore kindly supplied this journal, as the official organ of the Matrons' Council, with the following notes of the Address which she proposed to deliver on

### INSTRUCTION TO NURSES IN REGARD TO SOME ASPECTS OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND LADIES,—When your secretary invited me to address you to-day my consciousness of the difficulty of the subject was overbalanced by the knowledge of its deep importance, and by a very real appreciation of the honour it is to be given the opportunity of discussing it with women of such wide experience as yourselves.

The subject before us is "Instruction to nurses in regard to some aspects of Venereal Disease," and as such instruction is more or less a new departure in the education of nurses, I have thought it advisable to discuss it under three heads:—

- 1.—Is there need for any such instruction?
- 2.—The possible objections to it.
- 3.—What instruction should be given?

Let us consider, then—

1.—Why should such instruction be given?

A.—*The Infectious nature of such diseases* is the most obvious reason for giving nurses careful instruction about them, and this with two objects:—

- (a) To ensure the safety of the nurse herself, and
- (b) To prevent her from being the means of spreading infection.

In regard to all other infectious diseases the need is clearly recognised, and nurses are taught what secretions or excretion are infectious in different diseases and the special precaution which is necessary for them to take in each instance. How much more important is such knowledge in relation to diseases like Syphilis and Gonorrhœa, which do more harm to the community than all other infectious diseases put together.

B.—*To prevent much morbid anxiety* that arises from half knowledge.

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