

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL AT WIGAN.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

A meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held by the courtesy of the Governors at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, on November 2nd. Miss Macintyre, the Matron of the Infirmary, and a Vice-President of the Council, was in the Chair. There was a good attendance of members from the surrounding district and from London. Miss Macintyre welcomed those present, and opened the proceedings in a brief and pertinent address. After the Minutes had been read and confirmed, letters of regret at their inability to be present were reported from the President, Miss Heather-Bigg, of Charing Cross Hospital, Miss Haughton, Guy's Hospital, Miss Wright, of Stobhill Hospital, and many others.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

The following ladies were elected members of the Council:—

- Miss A. Livingstone Charteris, Matron, County Hospital, Bedford.
- Miss L. G. Dalton, Matron, City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, E.
- Miss J. W. Davis, Matron, The Royal Infirmary, Bradford.
- Miss E. Reid Dobie, Matron, The Infirmary and Dispensary, Bolton, Lancashire.
- Miss E. Edith Fowler, Superintendent, Nursing Home, 37, Beaumont Street, W.
- Miss E. Steele Innes, Matron, Royal Halifax Infirmary, Halifax.
- Miss F. McCartie, Matron, Fylde Joint Hospital, Lytham.
- Miss M. A. Marks, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Preston.
- Miss A. M. Oslar, Matron, Swithland Convalescent Home, Loughboro'.
- Miss M. Snell Rundle, Matron, Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C.
- Miss E. Wilcock, Matron, Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AND CONGRESS AT COLOGNE.

Miss Mollett, the Hon. Secretary, then presented her Report as representative of the Matrons' Council to the International Congress at Cologne. She stated that the party organised by her consisted of fifty-seven persons, and that the surplus, after payment of all expenses, was between £7 and £8. This it was suggested should be handed to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Spencer, to form a nucleus of a fund for sending a representative to San Francisco in 1915. The Hon. Secretary proceeded to give an outline sketch of the Congress, which has already been fully reported in the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, and concluded her report as follows:—

REFLECTIONS.

Your delegate has now attended every Congress of the International Council of Nurses but that

held in Paris, and it has been of much interest to her to note the general tendency and peculiarities of this Congress in comparison with those that have gone before. The following were the features that most struck your delegate:—

Firstly, the undoubted national note. The meeting was largely composed of foreigners—English and American delegates played very prominent parts, but the dominant note was unmistakably German. The groundwork of the International meeting was certainly national; it seemed to your delegate to be very characteristic and extremely creditable to the German organisation, which is so much younger than the English or American, that it should in no way be overshadowed by its elder sisters, but should be able to so thoroughly stamp its personality on the gathering.

It began at once with the Pageant. Instead of a translation or an adaptation of that so successfully carried out in London, the subject was treated from an entirely different standpoint, most effectively—but distinctly national—and very characteristic was a remark the talented designer made to your delegate: "We wished to show you that we also have ideas." And that sentence was the keynote to much of the Congress.

Turning to the papers read, your delegate considers that the majority of them were certainly as good as, if not better than, those given at previous Congresses, and it seemed to your delegate that, on the whole, the papers tended to be more concrete and less abstract, more practical and not so ethical as in past years. There was, perhaps, a greater frankness in exposing abuses and suggesting reforms and alterations. Many of the speakers defined their views with refreshing distinctness; and it is the first Congress your delegate has attended where one paper stands out very prominently as being the speech of the Congress—I mean Dr. Hecker's monumental address. I doubt if, when translated, it will quite convey to you all that it did to those German nurses who sat and listened to it. It irresistibly reminded your delegate of Uncle Bräsig and the Mecklenbourg serfs. It voiced a real, living and terrible grievance with simple directness, and Dr. Hecker produced an extraordinary impression by attacking the burning question of the day with the fervent fanaticism of a social reformer joined, to the cold, calculating precision and overwealth of detail of a German man of science. For the sake of that speech or, rather, thesis alone the Congress was worth attending. The Congress showed a marked advance in the treatment of nursing as a factor in social reform—of the nurse as a social worker; that was another most outstanding point. It was interesting if only as showing how certainly, if slowly, public opinion is veering round to accept the truth of how infinitely more important is the prevention than the treatment of disease. The Cologne papers called special attention to the superiority of England and America over Germany in the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)