

asked for certificates, had no means of ascertaining the nature of the training given by the hundreds of certificate-issuing institutions.

At this moment much attention is being paid to national health, public authorities are appointing nurses for tuberculosis and school work, and as health visitors under the Notification of Births Act; before long insurance committees or approved societies will find it necessary to arrange for the domiciliary nursing of insured persons, and here again in the absence of a recognized standard we may have partially trained women appointed to do work which they are not qualified to undertake. It is useless to spend millions of money on national health if such beneficial schemes are to be nullified by inefficient nursing.

Meanwhile, the absence of organization, the unfair competition, the lack of recognition given fully-trained nurses, is having a detrimental effect on the profession. Matrons, poor law officials, and nursing associations, are all complaining of a scarcity of applicants, and of a falling-off in the quality of those who do come forward. From every point of view the question is urgent, and undoubtedly it is one which could not have failed to secure the attention of members of Parliament had the hundreds of professional women who have expressed a strong opinion in favour of registration been possessed of political power.

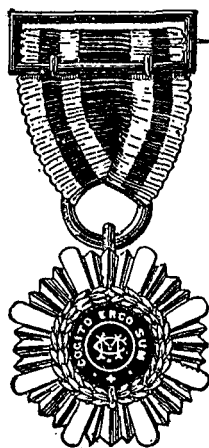
We are, Sir, yours, &c.,
HELEN MUNRO FERGUSON.
ELIZABETH S. HALDANE.

Raith, Kirkcaldy.

NURSING DEPOTS FOR THE HIGHLANDS.

The need for small equipped nursing depôts throughout the Highlands was emphasised at a recent meeting held at Inverness. Lord Lovat, who occupied the chair, said they had received a large number of replies from various districts of the Highlands with reference to the proposal on foot to establish a central nursing association, and the majority were in favour of such a proposal. Certainly in the Outer Islands the problem was most acute. The individual efforts in the provision of nurses which had been carried out in the past were worthy of the highest praise, but there were large stretches of land in the county that were not touched by nurses, and that was an unsatisfactory state of things. A county association would supplement and co-ordinate the existing provision of nurses. On the motion of Lady Hermione Cameron, seconded by the Hon. Mrs. Merry, it was unanimously resolved to form a county nursing association, and to notify the resolution to the Highlands and Islands Medical Committee.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Friday, January 30th. In the absence of the President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided, and there was a good attendance of members.

Arising out of the minutes, Miss Mollett reported that the views of the Matrons' Council upon the points on which it instructed its delegate (Miss J. W. Davies) to vote at the annual meeting of the National Union of Women Workers at Hull, in connection with the revision of the Constitution, had commended themselves to a large majority of the delegates.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter of regret at inability to attend was received from the President, who was unavoidably detained at the last moment from being present, a matter of special regret to her, as she wished to personally express, as President of the Council, her appreciation of Miss Mollett's services as Hon. Secretary for the last four years, and her regret at her retirement, which she was sure was shared by all the members.

Miss Mollett reported that the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses had sent to the Matrons' Council, as one of its affiliated Societies, a synopsis of the minutes of its last meeting.

Arising out of these minutes was the suggestion that each affiliated society should give an annual subscription to the funds of the Central Committee, and the Council unanimously resolved to subscribe £3 3s. annually.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The following new members were elected:—

Miss K. S. Stewart, Matron, County Hospital, York.

Miss E. M. R. Böge, Superintendent (Q.V.J.I.), Shoreditch District Nurses' Home.

Miss Emily Abraham, Superintendent, Cathedral District Nursing Society, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Miss E. M. Hunter, Matron, Cray Valley Hospital, St. Mary Cray.

Miss M. F. Macintyre, Matron, Durham County Sanatorium.

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