

to be held in Birmingham from June 9th-12th. Miss Musson also said that she would be glad to receive through the Council suggestions as to any questions which the members would like to bring up for discussion, and to receive any exhibits for inclusion in the Exhibition.

Miss Musson hoped that the members of Societies affiliated to the National Council would take an interest in the Conference, and show any exhibits designed by nurses, or of nursing interest.

It was agreed to write to Miss Musson thanking her for her letter, and saying that the Council would endeavour to promote the success of the Conference and Exhibition.

#### OTHER BUSINESS.

Other business included the nomination of a delegate on the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland at its meeting at Bristol in October, and for the ensuing year, and the Council supported a resolution that provision should be made for the registration of nurses by the State, to be placed on the Agenda at the Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Bristol in October.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick reported that the petition from Matrons organised in support of that of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, to the Premier, had been signed by about 500 Matrons. She also gave details of the arrangements already made in connection with the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at San Francisco next year. It was estimated that the cost of attending the Congress from this country to those who joined the nurses' train at New York would be about £80.

A vote of thanks having been accorded to the President, the meeting terminated.

ANNIE E. HULME,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

At the conclusion of the business meeting a sumptuous tea was served in the Board Room of the hospital, when the Chairman (Mr. Charles Willis), Mr. E. Willis, Dr. and Mrs. Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Fairweather, Miss Jackson, the Mayoress of Rochester, Mrs. Bailey, wife of the Chaplain, whose absence was a matter of great regret, Mrs. Steevens, the wife of the Rector of Chatham, who is one of the brethren of the hospital, Mr. Evans Pratt, President of the Dickens Society, and Mrs. Evans Pratt, Miss Davidson, from Gravesend, Mrs. Johnson, the Secretary Mr. Charles Speyer, and others were invited to meet the members, and Miss Pote Hunt, Miss M. Steele, the Assistant Matron, and the Sisters were indefatigable in their care of the guests.

Mr. Paul Matthews, M.A., of Sir Joseph Williamson's School, read a most delightful Paper on "Dickens, Thackeray, and George Eliot contrasted."

The Chairman of the hospital, on behalf of the trustees, said that they were delighted to welcome the members of the Matrons' Council to the

hospital, and considered it a great honour that they had come to visit it. He then introduced Mr. Paul Matthews, reminding those present that Rochester was the home of Dickens.

Mr. Matthews, who kept his audience interested for an hour, described the special characteristics of each of the three great novelists referred to, all of whom were humorists. Charles Dickens's message was one of love to mankind and the affection of family life—the life of the London middle classes, was over and over again portrayed in his books, and the humour of the Londoner his constant theme.

Thackeray was the satirist of the world of the upper classes. No one escaped him, and all the besetting sins of Englishmen were laid bare. George Eliot, again, chose as her text the behaviour and life of simple folk, and she also showed herself a humorist.

At the conclusion of the lecture Mrs. Bedford Fenwick warmly thanked Mr. Matthews for his address, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, as President expressed the sincere thanks of the Council to the Committee for their most hospitable reception, and Miss Wortabet conveyed the thanks of its members to Miss Pote Hunt for her hospitality and kindness.

A peep into the cheerful wards, with green walls, forming a restful background for the blue-bells, narcissus and maple with which they were adorned, the charming children's ward, with white cots, crimson coverlets, and a verandah, overlooking a pleasant garden, on which some of the children are nursed continuously, and the members had regretfully to hasten to catch their trains, carrying with them the remembrance of a most happy day and a warmth of gratitude for the many kind and delightful people who had contributed to its success. M. B.

#### KING EDWARD VII ORDER OF NURSES, SOUTH AFRICA.

Miss Pritchard has been appointed Superintendent-General of the above Order, in succession to Miss J. C. Child, who will return to Basutoland, now that the year for which she was seconded by the Government has expired.

Miss Pritchard was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; was Sister in Military Hospitals in England and South Africa; also at the General Hospital, Birmingham. She is at present Lady Superintendent of the Bengal Branch of the Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association. In a recent report we read: "Miss Pritchard, Lady Superintendent, during the past year has continued to give proof of her marked capabilities in the control of her Branch and the management of her Nursing Staff, and her Local Committee express themselves as altogether pleased with her supervision."

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING conveys congratulations to the Order and to Miss Pritchard.

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