

acknowledged by them, the Clerk to the Guardians also stating that they had forwarded a copy to the Local Government Board.

The Chairman remarked that it was very satisfactory that the Guardians, in taking this action, had endorsed the resolution of the Matrons' Council.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

On the proposition of Miss Carruthers, Miss Helen Clayton, Superintendent of the Kensington District Nurses' Home, was unanimously elected a member.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mrs. Walter Spencer, Hon. Treasurer, next presented a very satisfactory Financial Report. Including the balance in hand on January 1st, 1914, the receipts amounted to £49 13s. 4d., and the expenditure to £28 8s. 8d., leaving a balance in hand of £21 4s. 8d.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Miss A. E. Hulme presented the Annual Report, which stated that the January and October Meetings were held in London, and the April Meeting at Rochester, where, by invitation of Miss Pote-Hunt, the Matron, and the Committee of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in that city, the meeting was held in the Nurses' Home. Subsequently the members of the Council were entertained to tea in the Board Room, after which the Chairman, Mr. Charles Willis, on behalf of the trustees, welcomed the members of the Council to the hospital, and then introduced Mr. Paul Matthews, M.A., who gave a delightful address on "Dickens, Thackeray, and George Eliot" contrasted.

Miss Callaghan, Matron of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, consented to represent the Council at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland arranged to be held in Bristol in October, but owing to the outbreak of war the Meeting and Conference were abandoned.

Miss E. M. Musson, Matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham, and Miss E. Barton, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, represented the Council when a Deputation from Societies interested in the State Registration of Trained Nurses, organized by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, were received at the Home Office by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on July 30th.

The Report further stated that twenty-two Matrons had been elected to membership during the year.

It was agreed to incorporate some information as to the work of members in connection with the war. The Report was adopted.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss M. Huxley were re-elected as Vice-Presidents, and Miss A. Smith, Matron of the Kingston Infirmary, and Miss E. M. Waind, Lady Superintendent of Galen House Private Nurses' Institution at Guildford, were elected Vice-Presidents in place of Miss M. N. Cureton and Miss G. Knight, who retired in rotation.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Spencer, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Hulme, were unanimously re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the Hon. Officers for their services during the year brought the business meeting to a conclusion.

Tea was then served, and much enjoyed, and the presence of Mrs. Holgate and Miss Dalrymple from New Zealand added to the pleasure of the gathering.

A. E. HULME, *Hon. Secretary.*

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK DURING THE WAR.

Miss M. Mollett then opened a discussion on "Women and their Work during the War" with a short paper. She said:—

We are all, in the present-day popular phrase, "doing our bit" or "attending to our job"—man and woman, and boy and girl, we are all so keen on keeping the old ship afloat, and seeing her safely through, that we have little or no time for talking things over. Yet it is really a good thing for us to meet sometimes and do some talking.

For myself, I find it difficult to settle to the printed word; there is something about talking more alive, more real, more in keeping with the electric current in the air, that makes for action, and not for study or contemplation.

Three W's will engage our attention to-day—Women, Work, and War. A year ago there were many who held that the World War was impossible, either because of its cost, of the interests involved, of the shock it would be to modern civilized nerves, because the slaughter caused by modern civilized instruments of warfare would be too terrible, or for other reasons. The optimists were wrong. We have a war to-day so costly that it exceeds the fabulous dreams of Eastern genii, a war relentlessly indifferent to all interests but those which can be threshed out on the battlefield.

Modern civilized humanity has recovered with great rapidity from its first shock, and is chiefly remarkable for the keen and intelligent interest it takes in such details of the struggle

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