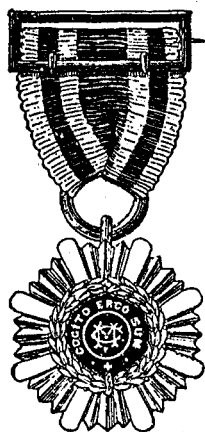


## THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.



The quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Thursday, April 6th; the President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, was in the chair.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the National Union of Women Workers, in reply to one from the Hon. Secretary, respecting the need of arrangements for restricting the voting at meetings of the National Council of Women to the appointed delegates. Miss Green stated that steps had

already been taken with this object.

### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The following Matrons were elected Members of the Council:—

Miss Christine Falconer, General Hospital, Cheltenham.

Miss Cecilia Winter, Isolation Hospital, Broadheath, Cheshire.

Miss Florence Pitt, Cottage Hospital, Potter's Bar.

Miss Ruth Jones, Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Miss Elizabeth Surtees, Haverfordwest and Pembrokeshire Infirmary.

Miss Mary Stewart, R.N., Queen's Canadian Hospital, Beachborough Park, nr. Shorncliffe.

Miss Winifred Tait, The Hospital, Paramatta, Sydney, N.S.W.

Miss E. W. Taylor, Red Cross Hospital, The Castle, Dublin.

Miss Victoria Despard, Eccles and Patricroft Hospital, Patricroft, Manchester.

Miss M. Walker, Union Infirmary, Birkenhead.

Miss E. Booth, City of Westminster Infirmary, Fulham Road, S.W.

Miss R. Bland, Women's Settlement Hospital, Balaam Street, Plaistow, E.

### ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The next business was the election of delegates to serve on the Central Registration Committee. Miss Mollett resigned shortly after the January Council meeting, as she has ceased to be in active practice and distance from town prevents her attending meetings in London.

Miss Musson and Miss Barton having accepted office on the nominated Council of the Nursing College, Ltd., the Memorandum and Articles of Association of which are opposed in principle to the fundamental policy and principles for which the Matrons' Council was founded, the following members were elected to act on the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses as its delegates: Miss Marquardt, Matron, Camberwell

Infirmary; Miss Bushby, Matron, Queen's Hospital, Hackney Road, N.E.; and Miss Cancellor, Matron, Frimley Hospital.

### THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The President then presented a Report on the Conferences with the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., re the organization of the Nursing Profession through a voluntary system of registration and a Nursing College.

#### *Introduction.*

It is always well—and sometimes necessary—to ask ourselves to what objects and obligations we are pledged by our membership of the Society to which we belong.

This afternoon, before passing to the Report of the Conferences, recently held, it would be well to remind ourselves of the fundamental objects of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

It is this—we stand for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses throughout the United Kingdom.

The educational aspect is admittedly one of great importance, but that—even that—sinks into insignificance in the greater light of the need of legal status by Act of Parliament.

We must—one and all—stand loyally to that object, resolutely setting our faces against side tracks, even though they carry with them the semblance of short cuts to enforcing the principles we have so earnestly worked for during the past quarter of a century.

#### *First Conference.*

On February 23rd, by invitation of Miss Swift, a conference was held between the delegates of the nursing organizations and the promoters of the Voluntary College of Nursing.

The Hon. Arthur Stanley presided, and explained at length the procedure he had followed in inaugurating this College of Nursing. This procedure revealed the omission of consultation with any of the organised societies holding adverse opinions to him and his advisers.

Miss Houghton then read a paper, putting forth the objects, scope and principles of the Voluntary College of Nursing.

The conclusion forced on those present was that, under the scheme, the nurses were not to be a self-governing body; that the Consultative Board would consist largely of "persons" interested in the relations between nurses and the public; and that men or women of general administrative experience were to help on the business side of the undertaking. This is the exact antithesis to the Nurses' Registration Bill. Under that Bill the registered nurses have the right to elect direct representatives on the Council, and it would therefore represent the nursing profession of the United Kingdom.

Dr. Macgregor Robertson recalled the fact that the Nurses' Registration Bill had been adopted by a Parliament of nurses, not only in Scotland, but in the three divisions of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)