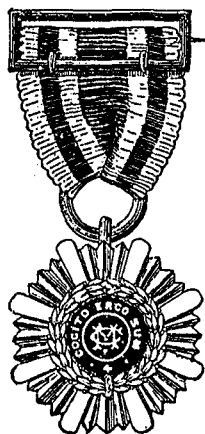


THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.



By kind permission of the Fulham Board of Guardians and of Miss Ballantyne (the Matron), the quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council was held in the Board Room at the Fulham Military Hospital, St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith, W., on Friday, November 17th, at 4 p.m.

THE HOSPITAL.

Before the meeting, a number of members availed themselves of Miss Ballantyne's kind invitation to see the wards of the military hospital, where now some thousand patients are under care. As

most of our readers know, the Fulham Infirmary has been adapted as a military hospital, and very bright and cheerful it looked, and very contented and happy the men appeared; those too ill to leave their beds receiving every care and attention that skilled medical and nursing care can render. One man grievously wounded when admitted was on a bed fitted with a clever appliance, whereby he could be raised from the mattress, to relieve pressure, to permit of wounds being dressed, and also for the mattress to be turned and the bed made, as he was too ill to be moved otherwise.

The patients who were able to be up were gathered round the cheerful stoves, either playing games, making string bags, or doing other work in which "Tommy Atkins" seems to excel when his hands are not needed for sterner uses. A brief visit was paid to the X-ray department, under the direction of Dr. Florence Stoney, where interesting plates were shown of limbs in which shrapnel and bullets were seen to be embedded, also one of a badly fractured femur, and the same after it had been plated. There was only time to peep into the linen room, where piles of linen in orderly stacks testified to the efficiency of this department; and into the bright and cleanly kitchen.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

The Board Room, in which the meeting was held, is a beautiful pannelled Chamber—most handsomely fitted with leather lounges, and a very imposing Chair.

In the absence, through indisposition, of the President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg (greatly to her own regret and that of the members), the chair was taken by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

After the minutes had been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. E. Hulme, read letters from the President, from Lady Horsley, expressing her thanks for the resolution of sympathy in her bereavement sent by the Matrons' Council; from Miss Kathleen Stewart, Matron of the County Hospital, York, accepting office as

one of the delegates of the Matrons' Council on the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses; and from a large number of members unable to be present

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership were then considered, and the following Matrons elected members of the Council:—

Mrs. Barton, Matron, Prince of Wales' Hospital, Penton Road, Staines

Miss Helen P. Hamilton, Matron, Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C.

Miss Agnes A. Bousfield, Matron, War Hospital, Stratford-on-Avon.

Miss Jean C. Wishart, Matron, Maternity Hospital, York.

Mrs. Simmonds, Matron, St. Marylebone Workhouse, London, W.

Mrs. W. A. Hill, Matron and Superintendent Nurse, Berkhamstead Workhouse and Infirmary, Herts.

STATE REGISTRATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

In the absence of the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick then briefly reviewed the present position of the State Registration movement, more particularly in its relation to the negotiations between the Central Committee and the College of Nursing.

She reported with regret that agreement to adopt a conjoint Bill between the Central Committee and the College of Nursing had so far failed. The Central Committee had gone to the extreme limit in concession, consistent with the future safety of the nursing profession. The principal question at issue was the constitution of the General Nursing Council—the future governing body of the Nursing Profession. The Central Committee claimed that the nominating authorities should appear in the Bill, according to the precedents of the Medical, Midwives and Teachers Acts, and thus secure the direct representation of the nurses on the first Council. The College desired to place the names of 45 nominated individuals in the Bill, for which there was no precedent, and by which means the direct representation of all the self-governing nurses' associations—like the Matrons' Council, which had for so many years advocated, worked and paid for furthering State Registration of Nurses—would be cut out of the Bill, and the whole profession be at the mercy of irresponsible persons who were to be granted power to make the rules and regulations which the "registered nurses" would have to obey, thus by Act of Parliament perpetuating the autocratic system of government without consent inaugurated by the College of Nursing, which a large number of trained nurses are determined to resist.

The College Bill did not provide for "hospital" training, nor for an examination before registration, and was altogether a dangerously vague draft of legislation.

The Central Committee had therefore decided to amend its own Bill, which had been done. The Bill secured a representative Council, with adequate

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