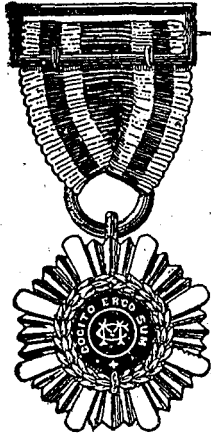


THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council was held, by the kind permission of the Board of Guardians and of the Matron, Miss Elma Smith, at the City of Westminster Infirmary, Colindale Avenue, Hendon, on Thursday, July 20th, at 4 p.m. The President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, was in the chair and there was a good attendance of members.

Before the business of the afternoon began the President moved from the chair the following resolution, which was carried in silence,

the members standing:—

RESOLUTION.

"The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland has learned with profound sorrow of the death, on active service, in Mesopotamia, of Colonel Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S.

"The Council remembers with the deepest gratitude the invaluable help rendered by Sir Victor Horsley to the cause of State Registration of Trained Nurses, and his friendship and sympathy with the Nurses' Societies working for professional organisation.

"The Council offers to Lady Horsley and her family its deepest sympathy in their bereavement, and begs them to believe that it will always cherish the memory of Sir Victor Horsley, whose illustrious life has, in the service of King and Country, been crowned by an illustrious death."

The Minutes of the previous meeting were then read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. E. Hulme, and confirmed.

Many letters and a telegram of regret at inability to attend were reported from absent members.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership were then considered, the following Matrons elected:—

Miss E. A. Rénaut, David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool.

Miss Lucy A. Parry, the Colony, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks.

Miss E. A. Oliver, Cottage Hospital, Potter's Bar.

Miss Emily J. Haswell, Matron-in-Chief, French Flag Nursing Corps.

Miss F. Ambler Jones, South Eastern Hospital, New Cross, S.E.

Miss E. M. Ouston, Lady Superintendent, Babies' Hospital, Manchester.

Resignations were received with regret from Miss Haughton, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Bickham, and Miss C. C. Haldane.

Steps were then taken to fill the vacancy caused by Miss Cancellor's resignation as a delegate of the Council on the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, due to the fact that the National Union of Trained Nurses, which has now become affiliated to the Committee, wished her, as their Chairman, to represent it.

At the request of the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick then explained the present position in regard to the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd., and said that though it was at first very inadequate, consultations upon the Bill had produced satisfactory results, including agreement on direct representation for registered Nurses, a general register for the thoroughly trained and supplementary registers for male and mental nurses, an appeal to the High Courts for those nurses aggrieved with the decisions of the Council, &c. The crux of the question was the constitution of the General Nursing Council, and upon that they were still conferring, representatives of the Central Committee were earnestly working for agreement, but of course could not sacrifice principles to attain this end.

The President, from the chair, proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Elma Smith, and asked her to convey the thanks of the Council to the Guardians for permitting them to meet at the Infirmary; and Miss Smith, in responding, said the Guardians were delighted that the Matrons' Council should honour them by meeting there.

Miss Heather-Bigg also proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fenwick, and said that the nursing profession were greatly indebted to her for the jealous care with which she guarded its interests.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting terminated and a delightful tea was served at a number of little tables on the lawns all dotted with sweet white clover in front of the Infirmary, the Matron and Sisters vying with one another in their kind attentions to the guests. We are compelled to own it was not a war tea, sandwiches, cakes, and splendid strawberries and cream being pressed upon the guests with lavish hospitality. The day was perfect, the air sweet with the scent of hay and flowers, and several hours of delightful rest and chat were enjoyed. Great interest was taken in the flights of the aeroplanes from the aerodrome close to the Infirmary, the flitting around of which kept us well in mind of war work even in this peaceful spot. The visit to Hendon is the first which has been paid by the Matrons' Council to one of our fine Poor Law Hospitals, and was such a success that it is hoped it may receive invitations to repeat the experiment elsewhere. Poor Law Nursing has become so highly specialised a branch of social service, it is well that the fine results should be seen and appreciated by those engaged in other departments of nursing.

ANNIE E. HULME,

Hon. Secretary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)