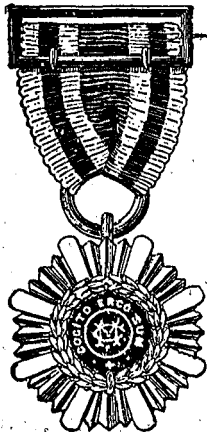


THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held by invitation of the President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, who was in the chair, in the Nurses' Home, Charing Cross Hospital, on April 27th, at 4 p.m.

Before the business began, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that she was sure all those present would wish to offer to Miss Heather-Bigg their congratulations on receiving the decoration of the Royal Red Cross from His Majesty the King. They all rejoiced to see their President thus honoured. She then, on

behalf of the Council, asked Miss Heather-Bigg's acceptance of a sheaf of pink and rose tulips.

In expressing her thanks, Miss Heather-Bigg expressed pleasure at receiving the decoration. She regarded it as a public recognition of the efficiency of the Sisters and Nurses of Charing Cross Hospital, as it was their work for the sick and wounded which had earned it.

The Minutes having been read and confirmed, Miss Hulme, Hon. Secretary, reported that the ladies nominated as Vice-Presidents—Miss Livingstone Charteris, County Hospital, Bedford; Miss Jessie Davies, Royal Infirmary, Bradford; and Miss Christina Falconer, General Hospital, Cheltenham—had accepted office.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following ladies were elected members:—Miss J. R. Amour, Matron, and cert. Royal Infirmary, Sunderland.

Miss E. A. Beverly, Matron-Superintendent, Bethnal Green Schools, Leytonstone, cert. Camberwell Infirmary.

Mrs. J. M. Boeddicker, Matron, Highbury V.A.D. Hosp., Birmingham, cert. General Hosp., Birmingham.

Miss Edith Ellis, Matron, Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, cert. Charing Cross Hospital.

Miss M. Crawford Kennedy, Matron, St. Mary's Nursery College, Hampstead, N.W., cert. Great Northern Hospital.

Miss J. McKinnon Smith, Matron, Isolation Hospital, Swindon, Wilts., cert. Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Miss R. Metherell, Matron, Freshford Cottage Hospital, nr. Bath, cert. Bridgwater Hospital.

Miss E. Mina Thomas, Matron, Peterborough City and Borough Fever Hospital, cert. Durham County Hospital.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick remarked that in listening to the records of training and service of the ladies

elected, one must be struck with the value of their professional experience, and how necessary it was that Matrons in charge of every variety of hospital, and not only of the few larger training-schools, should have an organization like the Matrons' Council, through which they could express their considered opinions.

SOLICITORS (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

The Hon. Secretary read a communication from the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland inviting the Council to support the following Resolution:—

RESOLUTION.

"That the Committee urges the Government to give time for, or itself adopt, the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, which enables women to practise as solicitors in England and Wales, and which has passed its third reading in the House of Lords: and further urges that a corresponding Bill to enable women to practise as Law Agents (*i.e.*, Solicitors) in Scotland should be passed through the House with the English Bill."

In proposing the resolution, Mrs. Fenwick said that the Bill had passed the House of Lords, and that she hoped, if it became law, women would soon be admitted as members of the Bar, and help to purify its proceedings in Court. From personal experience of Courts for a number of years, she considered that many reforms were urgently needed.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Heather-Bigg.

Miss Hulme said at a meeting recently attended she had heard a K.C. declare that there was no reason why women should not hold every position from Clerk to Judge—it would help to elevate methods of business.

Miss Brey said that the need for women solicitors was evident to those who heard midwives cited before the Central Midwives Board. These poor women, who employed solicitors whose services they could ill afford, often received no adequate help. So little did one solicitor understand what he was talking about, that he informed the Board that a case was "only one of puerperal fever." Had it been anything serious his client, who was accused of not notifying her local supervising authority that she had sent for medical help, would, he said, of course have notified it.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The National Union of Trained Nurses was welcomed by the Council "into the Federation of Free Nurses" grouped in the National Council of Trained Nurses.

At the conclusion of the meeting, tea was served in the Lounge, and afforded a pleasant opportunity for friendly intercourse.

After tea, a lecture by Mr. Eustace Miles, on "Health—Food and Economy" was listened to with great pleasure. It will be reported at length next week.

ANNIE E. HULME,
Hon. Secretary.

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