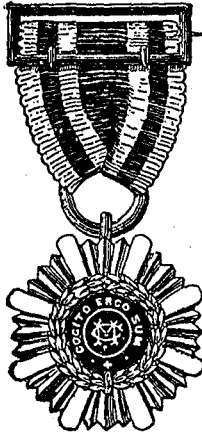


MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on January 26th, at 4 p.m. Tea will be at 5 p.m., after which there will be a Discussion on the importance of increasing the activities of the Matrons' Council. For many years after the withdrawal, in 1898, of the matrons who helped to found the British Nurses' Association, nearly all the progressive work for the nursing profession in Great

Britain for ten years was initiated and carried forward by the Matrons' Council—until the Society for State Registration was organized and drafted the first Nurses' Registration Bill, when members of the Council gave whole-hearted support to the movement. The Council is now affiliated to the Central Committee for State Registration, and has loyally supported the policy of an independent Governing Body for the Nursing Profession upon which the rank and file of the profession has *direct* and adequate representation, a policy denied by the Bill drafted by the College of Nursing.

SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNING BODY DEMANDED.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, on Thursday, 11th inst. The Committee had before it for consideration the Agreement between the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Proposed Supplemental Charter and Bye-laws to be laid before a Special General Meeting of the R.B.N.A. on Thursday, 18th January. In an interesting historical survey, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick reviewed the vicissitudes of the R.B.N.A. It was realised that the amalgamation of the two bodies as the Royal British College of Nursing would unite many apparently irreconcilable foes in support of the principle of State Registration of Nurses, but that the professional status of the R.B.N.A.

would, under the Supplemental Charter, be absorbed into a lay Corporation, as it provided for the inclusion of the laity as members of the College without any qualification, whereas membership of the College was to be compulsory for Registered nurses, who would be compelled to obey a Council composed of "Members of the Medical Profession, Matrons and Principal Officers of Hospitals and Infirmaries, Superintendents of Nursing, Trained Nurses, Managers of Hospitals and Infirmaries, and persons and Bodies interested in the question of Nursing," instead of a professional Council, as provided under the existing Bye-laws. So long as this Council was only empowered by Royal Charter, trained nurses outside hospitals need not submit themselves to lay control, but under the Agreement the Royal College of Nursing, when in existence, "proposed to promote legislation for State recognition of its Register," and, if successful, trained nurses would be deprived of personal and professional independence. This was not the State Registration for the whole profession by an independent Governing Body which they desired, and would not be acceptable to the professional registrationists.

The Committee therefore agreed to continue its just demand for a rightful measure of self-government by *direct* representation on their Governing Body, as secured to trained nurses under the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, to which it was affiliated.

FOR A JUST BILL.

The Society has to thank Miss E. B. Kingsford, Chairman of the Nurses' Protection Committee, for a most generous gift of £10 10s. towards the expenses incurred in the "triangular fight" for State Registration. It was but recently Miss Kingsford gave £5 5s. towards securing "a just Bill." She wishes she could do more. *We* think she has done her share very handsomely.

The President also acknowledges with many thanks the following donations:—Miss E. L. C. Eden, £5 5s.; Miss Christina Forrest, £2 2s.; Miss Rimmer, £2 2s.; Mrs. Tuckett, £1 1s.; Mr. and Mrs. Hambleton, £1; Miss G. B. Macvitie, £1; Miss H. Brewerton, 11s.; Miss L. H. Hayes, 10s.; Mrs. Strong, 5s. 6d.; Mrs. Barton, 5s.; Miss Crichton Stuart, 5s.; Miss E. Dinnie, 5s.; Miss E. M. Dickson, 3s. 6d.; Misses Matthews and Lendrum, 3s.; Mrs. Carlin, 3s.; Miss M. Byard, 2s. 6d.; Miss M. E. Shank, 2s. 6d.; Miss G. Tatham, 2s. 2d.; Miss C. Lee, 2s.; Miss Gilchrist, 1s. 6d.; and Miss Grimes, 1s. 6d.

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