

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The annual meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Friday, January 24th, 1919, at 3 p.m.

The President, Miss Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., will be in the chair and at the conclusion of the business meeting Miss Heather-Bigg will be asked by the members to accept an address, accompanied by a little gift in recognition and appreciation of all she has done for the uplifting of the nursing profession during her tenure of office as Matron of Charing Cross Hospital.

Tea and a reception will follow at which the Council hope to welcome many friends interested in nursing politics.

ANNIE E. HULME,
Hon. Secretary.

IRISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Irish Matrons' Association held its meeting for the annual election of office-bearers on January 4th. The following members obtained the largest number of votes:—President, Miss Huxley, Elpis, Lower Mount Street; Hon. Secretary, Miss O'Flynn, Children's Hospital, Temple Street; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Bradbourne, The Meath Hospital; Mrs. Lanigan-O'Keeffe was appointed Secretary to the Association. Miss Reeves was elected as delegate to the Nation's Tribute to Nurses, Ireland.

M. LANIGAN-O'KEEFFE,
Secretary.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Irish Nurses' Association held their monthly meeting on Saturday, January 4th, at 34, Stephen's Green. The President, Miss Carson Rae, in the chair. There was a large attendance of members. After the transaction of routine business a letter was read from the Hon. Secretary, Nation's Tribute to Nurses, Ireland, asking the I.N.A. to appoint a representative to serve on the Committee to aid in the decisions of the administration of this Fund for Irish Nurses. Miss Carson Rae was elected as delegate.

M. LANIGAN-O'KEEFFE,
Secretary.

VICTORY BALL IN DUBLIN.

A Victory Ball was held in Dublin Castle on New Year's night, which is to benefit the British Red Cross Society. The profit will therefore apparently not be handed over direct to the Tribute Fund for Irish Certificated Nurses, which determined from the first to administer its own Fund in Ireland. The £10,000 appealed for for Irish Nurses has now been received by the Committee.

THE COLLEGE COMPOUND.

Miss Geraldine Bremner, Nurse Representative on the Management of the London Nurses' Co-operation, and a member of the College of Nursing, writes in the "Burdett" Press.

"In answer to 'Ierne's' letter in the *Hospital* of December 28th, I would first say that I am a member of a very large body of nurses in London, and therefore have ample opportunity of hearing and discussing nursing subjects with my fellow-workers; and from what I hear I most emphatically say that 'Ierne' is voicing the opinion of the rank and file of great numbers of the nursing profession. It is very evident that there is a growing distrust in the College of Nursing, not only amongst those outside its portals, but also amongst many of its members. There is a very strong feeling that through it no reconstruction is taking place in the present nursing world, and that the Executive of the College are working for and spending the funds of the College only for the interest and good of the future nurse, with little or no thought for those who have borne, and are bearing, the heat and burden of the day.

"All right-minded members of the profession approve of a scheme in the College curriculum to help future members of the profession, but they did not subscribe £10,000 for that object to be first and foremost, nor did the public give its generous support for that object alone. Was it not the Nation's Tribute Fund for Nurses (*for services rendered*)? May the College, before it is too late, 'wake up' and initiate reconstruction in the nursing world, and first and foremost make the lives of the present members of the profession more bearable, and so swell its ranks. If this is not done its members will soon disown it, and look for reconstruction in other directions."

NO NURSES NEED APPLY.

Until the principle that "no nurses need apply" for seats on the Council of the College is abandoned the practising nurses will have no voice in the management of their own affairs. The nominated Council have made rules and regulations, and drafted a Nurses' Registration Bill in the most autocratic manner. The nurse members have never been consulted in any way whatever. We fear they are being treated as they deserve for subscribing to a constitution they have never seen, and which gives the Council (composed of their employers and matrons) the power to deprive them of membership without power of appeal.

We wonder if Miss Geraldine Bremner read the Constitution before signing her application form? If not, why not?

PRESSURE BY MATRONS.

We note in the current issue of the Kensington Infirmary Christmas Leaflet the Matron uses

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)