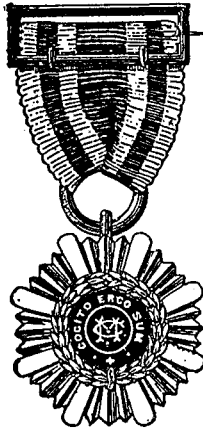


THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, on Friday, April 25th. The President, Miss Mildred Heather Bigg, R.R.C., was in the Chair, and over fifty members were present. Lovely spring flowers decorated the tables, and those present were in high good spirits, for the consciousness that the Council was within measurable distance of the fruition of its work, for the last quarter of a century, for the State Registration

of Trained Nurses permeated the room, and many eyes were turned to the portrait of its first President, Miss Isla Stewart, whose faithfulness and loyalty to professional ideals, and sense of responsibility to the public had been so great a factor in the promotion of registration in the past.

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

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Secretary reported a number of letters expressing the regret of members at their inability to attend the meeting, including one from Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Treasurer, who was examining candidates for the examination of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in Fever Nursing all day.

A letter was also received from Miss Rosamund Smith, Hon. Treasurer of the London Branch of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, welcoming the Council to affiliation with the Branch, and asking for the appointment of a representative member to whom notices of meetings might be sent.

Miss M. C. Sinziniex, A.R.R.C., Matron of Queen Alexandra's Hospital for Officers, Highgate, had accepted this office.

Miss Hulme further reported that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss M. Heather Bigg, Members of the Ministry of Health Watching Council, had been elected on to its Executive Committee.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications to be elected members of the Council were received and considered from Matrons holding certificates from the following nurse-training schools:—

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

Guy's Hospital, London.

King's College Hospital, London.

Charing Cross Hospital, London.

St. George's Hospital, Bombay.

The applicants were elected to membership.

THE ANNUAL MEETING, N.C.W.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the National Council of Women would hold the Annual Meeting at Leicester on June 24th, 25th and 26th. Miss S. A. Villiers (Hon. Treasurer), Miss E. Pell Smith (Home Hospital, Leicester), and Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C. (Matron Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham), were appointed as delegates.

Miss Hulme further reported that the National Council of Women had held a Conference on the Reduction of Hours of Work for Nurses, which Miss Bickerton and Miss Marsters had attended.

The National Council had also asked for a representative from the Matrons' Council on the Special Committee it had appointed on the Economic Position of Nurses, and Miss Villiers had consented to serve.

A Report was received from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on the work of Lady Rhondda's Ministry of Health Watching Committee.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

The Council accepted with pleasure the most kind invitation of the Committee and Matron of the Edith Cavell Home of Rest, Haslemere, to hold their summer meeting at the Home, and afterwards to a garden party in the grounds. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who proposed that the invitation be accepted, considered that it was very desirable that the Matrons should acquaint themselves with the work of these Homes; and Miss Marsters, who seconded, was of opinion that the Council could have no better place for its summer meeting. Added to which, many Matrons were glad to know of places to which nurses could go for a rest, and this Home was pleased to receive any nurses needing a rest, though it was not intended for those needing nursing care.

The first week in July was suggested as a convenient time for the meeting, if this suited the Committee of the Home.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick then spoke on the progress of the Nurses' Registration Bill promoted by the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, in the House of Commons, and said that the Matrons' Council had kept the Registration flag flying from its foundation in 1894 until the Society for the State Registration of Nurses was founded with the sole object of dealing with this work, in 1902. This Society, which had drafted the first Nurses' Registration Bill, in 1904, had really done more than any other to promote propaganda work amongst Members of Parliament, and that ten years of work had told, for it had converted both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, as was proved when the House of Lords in 1908 and the House of Commons in 1914, recorded their opinions on the question.

Mrs. Fenwick then described the procedure in connection with a private Member's Bill and emphasised the great good fortune which the Central Committee's Bill had had in securing a place in the ballot, through the kindness of Major Barnett, who, associated with Sir Samuel

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)