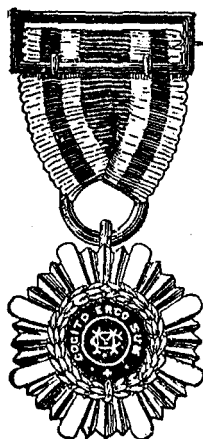


## THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Friday, January 24th, at 3 p.m. Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., President of the Council, was in the chair, and there was a large attendance of members. The President was supported on the platform by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Senior Vice-President; Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Treasurer; and Miss A. Hulme, Hon. Secretary. Vases of yellow daffodils and other

flowers introduced an element of sunshine, which was a pleasant contrast to the inclement weather. A number of apologies for absence were reported by the Hon. Secretary.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read and considered from the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, member of the Executive of the London Branch of the National Council of Women, drawing attention to the advantages of affiliation with the Branch. It was proposed by Miss Waind, seconded by Miss Des Forges, and it was agreed to accept the invitation to affiliate.

The question of nominating representatives for the Executive Committee of the Ministry of Health Watching Council was discussed.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed that the Council should nominate its President; this was seconded by Miss Elma Smith and supported by Miss Rimmer.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was also nominated by Miss Clara Lee, seconded by Miss M. Wright and supported by Miss Kingsford.

A letter was also considered from the officers of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

### APPLICATIONS.

The Applications of ten Matrons for membership of the Council were considered and the applicants elected.

Four resignations were received and accepted with regret.

### THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary then presented a Report of the work of the Council during 1918 the most important points being the affiliation of the Council with the Royal British Nurses' Association and the appointment of the President by the Association as one of its Vice-Chairmen and a member of its Consultative Committee. Miss Hulme also reported that the Council is

represented by delegation on the following important societies, with the names of the respective delegates: The Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and on the Legislation Committee of that Council.

### THE HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Treasurer, presented the Financial Statement, which showed a balance in hand of £10 16s. 10d. at the end of the year.

Both reports were received, and will be printed and circulated in due course.

### ELECTION OF HON. OFFICERS.

The retiring Vice-Presidents, and the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, who retire automatically each year, but are eligible for re-election, were then unanimously re-elected, on the proposition of the President, who said she was sure the Council would agree that they could not have better officers.

### REVISION OF BY-LAW.

The revision of By-Law 8 was then considered. The By-Law provided for the appointment of "A President who shall be elected for a term of three years, and who shall not be eligible for re-election until after a period of three years."

Miss Villiers proposed to omit the words "who shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of three years," and to substitute "and is eligible for re-election."

Miss Villiers said that under the By-Law as standing, the President, Miss Heather-Bigg, retires, but the Council would, she felt sure, agree that when they had a President who had served it so well, and who was so loyal to the nursing profession, they must endeavour to retain her if she was willing to accept office. She, therefore, proposed that the By-Law should be amended and brought into line with those governing the election of the other Hon. Officers.

Mrs. Fenwick in seconding the proposal said the Council had in Miss Heather-Bigg a President whom they all trusted, who stood firm on matters of principle, and whom they were proud to have represent them. If they could retain her invaluable services by altering the By-Law, by all means let them do so. Fidelity to principles, loyalty to friends were rare virtues. Let them cherish them wherever they found them.

The motion was supported by Miss Rimmer, and carried unanimously with enthusiasm.

### DELEGATE ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Miss Hulme reported that the death of Miss Kathleen Stewart had created a vacancy for a delegate of the Matrons' Council on the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses. Miss E. M. Roberts, R.R.C., Chief Matron, Comité Britannique, Croix Rouge Française, was elected to fill the vacancy, greatly to the satisfaction of her colleagues.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)