

Knaggs, R.R.C., and Lieut.-Colonel Howard Mummery, General Secretary of the Federation of Medical and Allied Societies.

A Report was also made as to the proceedings of the Sub-Committee of the Women's Health Watching Council (at present confidential except to the societies concerned) and action taken thereon.

It was proposed, from the chair, and unanimously agreed, to send a message of congratulation to Miss Elma Smith, Matron of the Colindale Hospital, Hendon, one of the original members of the Council, on her progress towards recovery after her recent critical illness.

Applications for membership were received and considered, and the applicants duly proposed and elected. There were no resignations.

The Chairman congratulated the Matrons' Council, which throughout the twenty-six years which have passed since its foundation has stood firm for State Registration of Nurses and worked to attain it, that Nurses' Registration Acts, incorporating the basic principles for which it so long contended had now been passed, and that amongst the trained nurses appointed on to the General Nursing Councils to administer the Acts, three were in the room that afternoon—herself, Miss Dowbiggin and Miss Villiers. Their policy would be to do their very best for the interests of the whole profession.

Miss Dowbiggin and Miss Villiers spoke in support of this policy.

The meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the Committee of the Hospital and to the Matron, Miss Bushby, for their invitation to the Council to meet there.

A dainty tea was then served with expedition and deftness, Sisters, Nurses and maids all hospitably attending upon the guests. It did one's heart good to see the neat uniforms, tidy heads and becomingly worn caps—no need to take a peep behind in order to discover whether a cap was there or not.

The Secretary of the hospital, Mr. T. Glenton-Kerr, gave much pleasure by joining the members at tea time, and amongst the honoured guests was Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

#### IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

At the monthly meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association, held at 34, St. Stephen's Green on May 1st, Miss Hezlett, in the chair, it was decided to call a Special Meeting on May 8th to discuss the effects of an eight-hour day. All members and nurses interested are invited to attend.

#### DEATH OF SIR HENRY BURDETT.

The press reports the death of Sir Henry Burdett, editor of the *Hospital*, and of the *Nursing Mirror* on Thursday, April 29th. Cremation took place at Golder's Green on May 3rd.

## THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Trained Nurses was held at 46, Marsham Street, on May 1st. Miss Cancellor presided.

Miss Helen Pearse, Superintendent of the London County Council School Nurses, was appointed President, and received a warm welcome.

A letter from Miss Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., retiring President, expressing continued interest in the work of the Union, was read, and Miss Pearse, on behalf of the Council, proposed a cordial vote of thanks to her for her unflinching support and wise counsels.

Miss Farrant, Inspector Q.V.J.I.N., was appointed Hon. Secretary. Miss Rimmer remains as Hon. Organising Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee's Report included an account of the work done for the attainment of State Registration and the following expression of gratitude:—"The thanks of our members are due to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and the faithful band of workers who have for years striven to achieve this result; to the various members of both Houses of Parliament who have introduced and supported the previous Bills which led up to the present Act; and to Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, and the late Sir Robert Morant, Permanent Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Health, for the framing, introduction and safe passage of the Act."

Miss Eden explained that since the Report was submitted to the Executive Committee, the First Nursing Council for State Registration had been formed, and its representative character was a subject of satisfaction to all those who had supported the Central Committee and who upheld the standard of justice and fair play. The members present expressed great pleasure at the fact that two members of its Executive Committee had been appointed to seats on the General Nursing Council.

Some changes in the constitution were made to provide for the decision already arrived at, that no person should in future be admitted to the Union who had not received at least three years' training in a general hospital of not less than a hundred beds. The standard of training of the Union is therefore a high one, and compares favourably with that of other bodies. The subscription has been raised to £1, and now includes all the benefits of the Employment Centre, which it may interest readers to know, has in the last five months filled 48 per cent. of the posts applied for. The subscription will also include membership of the club which it has been decided to open at the office of the Union, where there will also be a few bedrooms available at moderate fees for members of the Union. It was announced to the Council that Miss Pye, member of the Union and former Secretary, had received the high honour of being appointed Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur by the President of the French Republic.

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