

that a large majority of the nurses have fallen into the trap laid for them. The incorporated laymen and others who are "members" of the Co-operation, and control its finances, suggested closing down the business—a splendid one, entirely built up by the work of the nurses. The progressive minority, quite naturally in these enlightened days, wish to be members of their own Co-operation, and have power to manage it. This would not please the lay proprietor and editor of nursing publications at all.

So a very disingenuous question was addressed to the Nurses, inviting them to say "Yes" or "No" to whether they wished the "Co." to close down, and naturally the large majority replied "No." Why should they wish to be deprived of work and a livelihood?

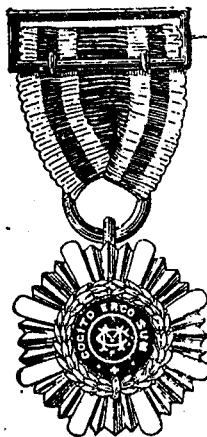
Had the "Members" honestly invited a reply to the question, "Do you wish to be Members of your own Co-operation, and have power to manage your own affairs?" we have no doubt the majority of votes would have been in favour of so doing. As it is, the Nurses, no doubt in their ignorance, and having been thoroughly misled, have elected to remain the servants of the incorporated "Members." It is high time this intolerable lay interference was put down, especially when, as in conducting so-called Nursing periodicals, cash and power accrue to these philanthropists.

We note Sir Henry Burdett states that letters have been received "from nurses" urging that the leaders of the agitation should be removed from the staff. We do not advise him to attempt to carry out this suggestion, especially whilst the writ issued against him by one of these "agitators" is *sub judice*. The present wholesale exploitation of nurses has got to cease. May we live to see it.

A Mass Meeting, convened by the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, will be held at the Scottish Nurses' Club, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow, on February 14th, at 2.30 p.m., to discuss the Professional Union for the mutual help and protection of Trained Nurses. The notice states:—Every Trained Nurse must feel at the present moment the insecurity of her position with regard to earning a livelihood. Nurses are cordially invited to attend and bring their friends.

Princess Helena Victoria, who has promised to distribute badges to members of the League of the Roses at the Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, on Thursday, February 12th, at 3 o'clock, will be received by the Marquis of Northampton (Hospital Chairman), Miss M. F. Roby (League Chairman), and members of Hospital and League committees.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held by kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer, at 2, Portland Place, W., on Thursday January 29th, at 3 p.m.

The President, Miss Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

The President opened the meeting by offering Mrs. Spencer, on behalf of the members, an expression of gratitude for her kind hospitality, and said it was very appropriate that the Council should meet to cele-

brate the passing of the Nursing Acts in the house of a pioneer supporter of the State Registration of Nurses, and who had held office as Hon. Treasurer for so many years.

Several new members were elected. Miss Euphemia Ross, Matron of the Western Fever Hospital, Fulham, and Miss Helen Pearse, Superintendent of the London County Council School Nurses, were elected to fill the two vacancies as Vice-Presidents.

Miss Villiers and Miss A. E. Hulme, were re-elected Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively for the ensuing year.

After interesting discussion on various questions, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick spoke on "The Nurses' Registration Act: The Powers and Duties of the General Nursing Council," and was listened to with very great interest. One point was made very clear. The Acts conferred great responsibility upon, not only the members of the Council, but on the registered nurses who would form the Nursing Profession in the future, and that its future honour and status would rest in their hands. That it would be the duty of the whole profession, once the Rules had been prescribed and agreed to, both by the Minister, and Parliament, to take a vigilant interest in the standard of Nursing Education and Examinations, the correctness of the Register, and the purity and high moral tone of the profession. Mrs. Fenwick warmly congratulated the Matrons' Council on its unflinching support of the ethics of registration, from its inception until this day. From 1895 to 1902, it was the only nurses' organisation upholding the State Registration Banner—when it evolved the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, so that the nurses with vision, as well as the matrons, might concentrate their political efforts. The Council must not only be congratulated on the good things in the Act, but also on the fact that the bad things proposed had been excluded.

Some interesting questions were asked, and

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