

### METROPOLITAN AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION OF QUEEN'S SUPERINTENDENTS.

A Conference of this Association was held on Thursday last, April 14th, at the new Home of the Paddington and Marylebone District Nursing Association by kind permission of their Committee. The chair was taken by Miss Wilde, whose experience as a Guardian and a member of the M.A.B. and other activities brings her into close touch with the Nursing Profession.

The spacious rooms of the Home were most adaptable to the large number of members who were present, many of whom came from long distances.

Such subjects were discussed as the Syllabus of Education and Training in General Nursing, as drafted by the General Nursing Council, with special reference to District Nursing; the Queen's Nurses' Benevolent Fund; Uniform; Salaries; and many other subjects of vital interest to Queen's Superintendents.

An excellent lunch was provided (at a restaurant near by), after the morning session, and after the afternoon session tea was served in the Nurses' dining room, where the opportunity of meeting old friends was greatly appreciated, and Miss Peterkin, Miss Bridges and Miss Mitchell were welcomed.

To the disappointment of everyone, a letter had been received from Miss Amy Hughes expressing her regret at not being able to be present.

### THE POOR LAW NURSES' GUILD.

A full report appears in last week's *Poor Law Officers' Journal* of the inauguration, at Manchester, of the Poor Law Nurses' Guild, at a special meeting of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, held on April 2nd, at the Union Offices, All Saints, Manchester. The Nurses were represented by the Matrons of the local Poor Law Infirmaries, and were addressed by Mr. L. Richmond, Assistant Clerk, Sheffield Union, who urged the nurses for their own protection to form a Nursing Section; membership of which was strictly confined to Matrons, Superintendent Nurses, Ward Sisters, Staff Nurses, Probationers in hospitals.

Mr. Richmond did not consider the College of Nursing sufficiently representative of the Poor Law Nursing Service to secure the proper protection of its interests, and he asked those present to withdraw any objection or bias which they had hitherto held.

#### MATRONS APPROVE THE SCHEME.

Miss Burgess (Matron, Crumpsall Infirmary) said she was sure they were all delighted with the excellent manner in which Mr. Richmond had placed his views before those present. She always felt that there ought to be some efficient organi-

sation to watch the interests of Poor Law nurses, and to try to improve the conditions of those nurses. Nurses, however, felt that they were in a somewhat different position from other Poor Law officers. That, of course, was natural on account of the great seriousness of their task and duty. Whilst considering that there ought to be efficient organisation, she wanted to make it quite clear that nurses wanted nothing to do with any organisation likely to adopt trade union methods. She would like to be perfectly assured, before committing herself in any way, that there would be no question of the National Association becoming a trade union, as, with the possibility of such a course being adopted, she was sure the nurses would refuse to become members.

Miss Ross (Matron, Salford Union Infirmary) thought that if a Nursing Section were formed it would be of much advantage to nursing interests. She would like to know whether medical officers would be eligible for membership of the Nursing Section if one were formed, as, without their experience and knowledge of nursing matters, the Section could not possibly be as efficient as it would be if they were admitted.

Mr. Richmond replied that possibly the better plan would be to give to the Nursing Section authority to accept as honorary members of that Section any medical men who were members of the National Association.

After an interesting discussion, a suggestion that the National Association representatives should retire in order that the nurses' representatives might discuss amongst themselves the question of the formation of a Nursing Section for the Manchester and District Branch area was acted upon, after which, on behalf of the nurses' representatives, Miss Ross informed the Committee that there was a unanimous opinion that there should be formed a Special Section for Nurses.

#### FORMATION OF NEW SECTION.

Miss Burgess suggested that there should be a distinctive title apart from that of the National Association, and after some discussion as to the title which might be adopted, it was decided that a Nurses' Section be formed and that such Section be known as the "Manchester and District Poor-Law Nurses' Guild."

Miss Burgess was elected Chairman, and Miss Ashton Secretary, of the Guild for the ensuing year, and a Provisional Committee appointed to carry out the preliminary arrangements and to make suggestions as to the alterations to, or adoption of, the Draft Rules, it being understood that the Provisional Committee, consisting of Misses Ashton, Burgess, Copeland, Dolan, Fairclough, Jeffery, Lewis, and Ross, would have power to add to its number if it so desired.

Miss Ashton, supporting, said she was delighted with the decision arrived at, and felt sure all nursing staffs would be pleased. They had wanted an organisation of their own for a long time, and it was pleasing to see the achievement at last.

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