

Ellershaw, President of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, to Mr. G. H. Colley, of Pretoria. Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., Hon. General Secretary of the Association, was maid-of-honour, and Miss Ellershaw's nurses formed a guard of honour. Everything was charmingly done, and the reception room at the house of a friend was beautifully decorated. In the centre of the room hung a wedding bell in white flowers, and radiating from the bell were ropes of silver, each rope ending with a tiny silver bell. The bride's table was decked with pink and white roses. In a brief address, the Rev. Godfrey Evans referred to the splendid work that Miss Ellershaw had done in the town and along the Reef for the poor, especially for women and children.

#### THE PASSING BELL.

The sad fate of Nurse Isabella Coutts, who disappeared from Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, on December 10th, was determined on Saturday, the 11th inst, by the finding of her body in the River Cart, at Inchinnan Bridge, in the burgh of Renfrew. About noon some workmen at the bridge noticed the body floating in the Cart on the rising tide from the Clyde. The Renfrew police recovered the body, and had it removed to the burgh mortuary. The relatives in Dunfermline were communicated with, and the poor girl's father journeyed to Renfrew, where he identified the body as that of his daughter.

#### GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

We have pleasure in giving prominence to the appeal of Lord Portman, Vice-Patron of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W. 1, for financial help to enable them to open larger premises, and employ more blind workers. No greater kindness can be done the blind than to teach them trades, and provide them with regular employment, and the means of self-support; but, as blind labour is a little more expensive than ordinary labour, it has to be subsidised by grants in aid. We can only say that if the results in all branches are as good as in the secretarial department, it is well worth subsidising. The letter we have received, written from her own shorthand notes by a blind typist, would be a credit to any sighted expert, and is much more perfect than the type-written letters we usually receive.

#### THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION.

Preparations are in full swing for the Annual Conference and Exhibition, which will be held at the Horticultural Hall, on April 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th. We hear that all the stalls are let already so that the Exhibition will if possible be more interesting than before. The Conference will be held on the evening of April 4th, and on the afternoons and evenings of the three following days. Nurses and midwives should note these dates and keep them free as far as possible.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, 22, Great Portland Street, London, W. 1

#### THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council held in London on Monday last, the following Resolutions were unanimously agreed, and it was decided to hold a Public Meeting on March 10th—convened by the various Nurses' Organisations, at which Councillor Beatrice Kent, the President, will preside—to Protest against the conduct of the members of the General Nursing Council who combined to paralyse the Council's activities for ten weeks, by failing to perform their responsible duties, and against the new Rules and Resolutions carried by these members at a meeting of the Council held on February 17th, proposed by Dr. Goodall, Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Coulton, which deprive the members of the Statutory Council of their personal responsibility for the conduct of business, and to invite the Minister of Health to dissolve the Council at an early date so that the "Registered Nurses" may elect their own representatives.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

That this Meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council enters a strong protest:—

*Against.*

1.—The determined attempt made by Hospital Matrons and other members of the General Nursing Council to deprive Registered Nurses of the record of their Certificates of Proficiency being entered against their names on the State Register, a grave injustice to highly trained members of the nursing profession.

*Against.*

2.—The conduct of the majority of the General Nursing Council, in deliberately neglecting the duties which they had undertaken to perform, by concerting together to abstain from attendance at the meetings of the Council for ten weeks, and thus paralysing the very important national work entrusted to the Council by Parliament, for which conduct, upon resuming their duties, these members have given neither explanation nor apology; this Meeting petitions the Minister of Health to dissolve the Council so that the Registered Nurses may elect their own representatives.

*Against.*

3.—The decision of the General Nursing Council to rescind the Rule providing efficient safeguards in compiling the Register of Nurses, and to register nurses without documentary evidence of the professional credentials for registration being submitted to its scrutiny. It considers that a State Register compiled in so casual a manner would be useless to the Medical Profession and the Public, and dangerous to the Nursing Profession.

Moreover this Meeting takes strong exception to the Registrar having been empowered by the Council to decide whether or not the credentials of nurses applying for registration shall be placed before the Registration Committee, and to the members of that Committee being compelled to recommend to the Council persons approved by the Registrar—whose applications and credentials they have not been permitted to inspect.

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