

### NURSING ECHOES.

We ask our readers to study carefully the Report of the meeting of the General Nursing Council held at the Ministry of Health on March 17th.

The reprisals policy of the majority of the Council, of which we have notified our colleagues, was put into effect. By a secret ballot, instead of by open voting, as on the previous occasion when the Standing Committees were elected, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was ejected from the Registration Committee of which she was Chairman, and a laywoman, totally devoid of any knowledge of the subject—the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills—was elected on to the Committee in her stead by a very carefully pre-arranged vote. Mrs. Fenwick was by the same method ejected from the General Purposes Committee, the duties in connection with which deal with the supervision of the Office, and her seat was given to the same titled woman.

Miss Maude MacCallum, who has been subjected to indefensible impertinence from the Registrar—which she has suffered with admirable dignity—has also been removed from the General Purposes Committee.

Miss Susan Villiers, the highly experienced Matron of the South-Western Fever Hospital, Stockwell, was penalised in the same manner. Miss Villiers was removed from the Education and Examination Committee, in which her expert knowledge of the important branch of Fever Nursing has been invaluable, for the future benefit of Fever Nurses and the public. This expert, trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with thirty years' first-class professional work to her credit, has been ruthlessly swept off this highly technical Committee, to make room for Lady Hobhouse, another laywoman, whose attempt to thrust upon the Nursing Profession a Supplementary Register of Cottage Nurses has been her chief claim to fame during her term of office on the Council—leaving this professional Committee of twelve persons without any representative Fever Nurse upon it!

Comment is superfluous. We intend to deal with the whole aspect of this most reprehensible business next week. In the meantime we are not surprised to hear that Miss Villiers' colleagues under the Metropolitan Asylums Board are taking prompt measures to express their justifiable indignation.

It will be interesting to certificated nurses to note that the four members of the Registration Committee who voted to omit the record of certificates on the State Register—Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Dowbiggin, Miss Peterkin, and Dr. Goodall—were, of course, re-elected on to the Committee.

At a meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons, of which Miss Lloyd Still is Chairman and Miss Cox-Davies Hon. Secretary, held at the Middlesex Hospital on March 18th, a Resolution was carried unanimously expressing the entire approval of the Association of the recent steps taken by the General Nursing Council in amending the Existing Rules, and thanking the Minister for having signed these Rules. The Resolution was proposed by Miss Musson, R.R.C., and seconded by Miss E. Maude Smith, R.R.C. In view of the motion standing in the name of Major Barnett in the House of Commons, the Association is asking members to oppose it.

Lord Aberdare presided at the Annual General Meeting of the subscribers to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, held last week at 58, Victoria Street. Sir Harold Boulton, who moved the adoption of the Report, said he feared they could not hope to collect so much money this year as last. They were grateful to all those who had helped them so splendidly. They were especially grateful to Queen Alexandra, who most graciously wrote a special letter of appeal to the members of her committee asking their help to increase the membership of the committee to 250, and so enable the sum of £2,500 to be handed over to the Institute instead of £2,000 as formerly.

Miss A. C. Lowe, who presented the Report, drew attention to the splendid sum of £3,342 raised by the Ball organised by the Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston. It was stated that the Council of the Queen's Institute is taking steps which will reduce the expenditure and increase the settled income so that they may be brought more into accord by somewhere about £4,500. This will still, however, leave a normal deficit of £5,000 on the year's working, and the deficiency will be greater in 1922, as the economies will not take full effect till 1923.

The Report also stated that the bonus given from the Queen's Nurses' Benefit Fund to Queen's Nurses on retirement after at least twenty-one years' service had been much valued.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)