

NURSING ECHOES.

Dr. E. W. Goodall, Medical Superintendent of the North-Western Fever Hospital, has been appointed Chairman of the Registration Committee of the General Nursing Council in place of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. A medical oligarchy is rapidly being established in the Council. The Council Chair and the chairs of three of the most important Standing Committees have now been allotted to medical men. How about self-government for the Nursing Profession? The College Matrons who are encouraging this depreciation of our status in our own Governing Body are proving themselves our enemies indeed. Nothing can be more indefensible than to crush out the justifiable aspirations of poorly paid professional women, such as trained nurses are. And men have no right to wield unlimited power in women's corporations for which women pay. There is a sound old proverb to this effect.

The first disastrous result of placing a medical man, instead of a Registered Nurse, in the Chair of the Registration Committee of the General Nursing Council will be that the Certificates authorising members of the Nursing Profession to use the title of "Registered Nurse" will be issued, signed by two medical men, and without the signature of a nurse-member of the General Nursing Council, which was secured by placing a Registered Nurse in the Chair of the Registration Committee. This is a most serious depreciation of the recognition of Nursing as a legally constituted profession. A Certificate of Training from a hospital which omits the signature of the Matron is universally discredited, and little valued in the nursing world; and the monopoly of power on our Registration Committee by a medical man deprives the Nursing Profession of rightful recognition by substituting a medical for a nursing signature.

Moreover, just at present the Registration Committee has under consideration the question of the uniform for a Registered Nurse! Are we living in the twentieth century or not? We feel sure our readers will appreciate the indignity of the whole situation.

Replying to the toast of his health at a luncheon given at the Guildhall, recently, by Mr. A. Stanley-Stone, chairman of the Bridge House Estates Committee, to his col-

leagues, the Lord Mayor said that a Lord Mayor was often asked to assist in the rebuilding of various institutions, but on the previous day the Lady Mayoress (a certificated Bart.'s nurse) had been asked by the governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to take part in the destruction of a building. The governors had decided to demolish the present nurses' quarters, and replace them with a more modern structure. "The Lady Mayoress has been asked," added the Lord Mayor, "—and I believe she is going to do it—to mount the chimney stack of the old building, and take off the first brick in connection with the destruction of the structure. And I am going up to support her," concluded the Lord Mayor, amid cheers.

On Tuesday afternoon the Annual Meeting of the Paddington and St. Marylebone District Nursing Association was held at the Home, 117, Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, the chairman being Mr. E. B. Turner, F.R.C.S., ex-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Council for District Nursing in London. The speakers were the Rev. Charles Knight, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Paddington; Dr. Charles Porter, Medical Officer of Health for St. Marylebone; and Dr. Reginald Dudfield, Medical Officer of Health for Paddington, who spoke warmly of the good work accomplished by Miss Marsters and her staff. Tea after the meeting was a pleasant function which was much enjoyed, and the friends of the Home took an opportunity of seeing and admiring its arrangements.

As will be seen from our advertisement pages, the Matronship of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, is now vacant. The hospital is one of the twelve large London Hospitals with Medical Schools attached, and there is also a large Nurse-Training School, so that the position is one of considerable importance.

On page ii of our cover will be found a picture of the beautiful drawing-room at the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. The Club is well situated close to Kensington Gardens, the Albert Hall, and High Street, Kensington. For further particulars, application should be made to the Secretary at the above address, who will be pleased to give every information.

Viscountess Novar of Raith is evidently keeping up her interest in skilled nursing, and,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)