

## QUEEN'S SUPERINTENDENTS IN CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference was held on Thursday, April 6th, at the Westminster Technical Institute, where an excellent lunch was also provided, prepared by the L.C.C. students; the menu and the waiting were carried out by boys who are being trained to become chefs and waiters, and the arrangements were admirable.

The chair was taken by Mrs. Bruce Richmond, and morning and afternoon sessions were held. The subjects discussed included the Status of the Village Nurse, the Nursing of Insured Persons, Unemployment Insurance, Superannuation Scheme and other subjects affecting district nursing organisations.

About sixty Queen's Superintendents took part in the discussions, which were both helpful and stimulating. After the Conference, tea was provided at the office, 58, Victoria Street, by kind invitation of the Council of Q.V.J.I. The occasion was one of great pleasure to many old friends who had not recently had the opportunity of meeting one another owing to the distance at which they work.

## NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

April 3rd.

### General Nursing Council.

Mr. T. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister of Health whether, when he informed the section of the General Nursing Council, representing the employers' interests, that he was prepared to sanction any rules consistent with the Act which the Council thought necessary, it was within his knowledge that this section, consisting of 10 matrons, five medical men, and four lay members, formed the overwhelming majority of those upon the Council, and that by reason of this unequal representation there was a possibility of the interests of the workers being brushed aside in favour of those of the employers?

SIR A. MOND: I have given no such pledge as is stated by the Hon. Member. I intimated to the chairman that I would approve such rules consistent with the Act as the council thought necessary to meet the serious difficulties which had arisen, and to speed up registration and secure an adequate electorate within the time allowed under the Act. I was, of course, acquainted with the personnel of the council, and I must once again demur in the strongest manner to any suggestion that any one section of the council is less anxious than another to do what is best in the interest of the working nurses.

### NOTICE.

We shall continue our criticism of the Minister's brief from which he made his statements in the House of Commons on March 22nd in our next issue, as we think he ought to know both sides of the General Nursing Council controversy. Better late than never.

## MEETING OF SELF-GOVERNING SOCIETIES OF NURSES.

### DEMAND FOR A GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL OF REGISTERED NURSES.

The Meeting convened by the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council of the members of nurses' societies affiliated in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, held at 11, Chandos Street on April 8th, was crowded to the door. Councillor Beatrice Kent presided, and the special object of the meeting was to hear Statements from members of the General Nursing Council whom these societies had nominated to the Minister of Health for appointment on to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

In opening the meeting, COUNCILLOR BEATRICE KENT said she was sorry and glad that a meeting had been summoned so soon by the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. Sorry that it should be necessary to show disapproval of certain recent events, glad that the members of self-governing societies of nurses should come eagerly in such large numbers to learn from members of the General Nursing Council what the position was.

The ground on which those present should take their stand was, she thought, that of uncompromising opposition to partiality, self-interest and autocracy on the Statutory Council. The type of mind which permitted them was the antithesis of what we had a right to expect on such a Council for the word statute implied justice.

The General Nursing Council was responsible to the nurses, it was not established for personal but for national purposes. The success of any Act depended upon the way in which it was administered, and it was for our General Nursing Council to exhibit a high sense of duty and responsibility. One of the main purposes of our demand for State Registration had been the protection of the public, and nurses knew that there were cases of both forged and stolen certificates. Under the Rules under which the Council had worked hitherto original certificates when possessed, or other documentary evidence, had to be produced to the Council direct. Now, by a new Instruction this was no longer required, and the burden of responsibility of recommending to the Council applicants for registration was, in the majority of cases, placed not upon the members of the Council forming the Registration Committee, but upon the Registrar, an official not responsible to the nursing profession and to Parliament, but to the Council, nor was the production of original certificates, or of certified copies of such certificates any longer necessary. The Council had decided to accept second-hand information, and no first-hand documentary evidence need be in its possession for compiling the Register, or for filing for future reference.

Most careful scrutiny of documents was the only way to ensure the compilation of a correct

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