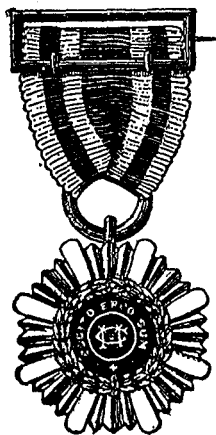


THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Friday, June 9th, at 3 p.m. In the absence of the President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., who at the last moment was prevented from attending, the chair was ably filled by Miss Elma Smith.

Arising out of the minutes, presented by the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. E. Hulme, it was pointed out that the protests expressed

outside the General Nursing Council, in support of the action taken within the Council by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and others in opposition to Miss Cox-Davies' proposal to deprive Existing and Intermediate Nurses of the record of their certificates on the State Register, had been successful, and the Minister of Health had approved an Amended Schedule securing this right to the nurses. The Matrons' Council could congratulate itself that it was one of the Societies which had helped to prevent this injustice.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss C. A. Little (Hull), in regretting her inability to be present, wrote: "Will you please count me as supporting the resolutions on the paper that are to be moved at this meeting. I have no words wherewith to express my admiration for those six members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales who have so nobly stood out against the reactionary methods of the majority on that Council. I should like to send hearty good wishes to all, and pray that success may attend your labours."

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick pointed out that the result in regard to the record of certificates showed that if the registered nurses were sufficiently vigilant, and supported the members of the General Nursing Council who were voicing their interests, injustices would not be done.

APPLICATIONS.

Applications for membership were then considered and the applicants elected.

DELEGATES ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

In response to an invitation from the National Council of Women to nominate three delegates to attend the meeting of that body to be held at Cambridge, in September, Miss S. A. Villiers, Matron of the South-Western Hospital, M.A.B., Member of the General Nursing Council for Eng-

land and Wales, and the nominee of the Matrons' Council of the Executive Committee of the N.C.W., Miss S. M. Marsters, Superintendent of Queen's Nurses for Paddington and Marylebone, and Miss G. Lord, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Trained Nurses, were nominated, and consented to serve.

Miss Villiers was nominated for a second term of office on the Executive of the N.C.W., and consented to serve if elected.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The two Vice-Presidents retiring in rotation were Miss Annie Smith (late Matron of Kingston Infirmary) and Miss E. M. Waind (Superintendent of Galen House Private Nurses' Institution, Guildford). It was agreed to thank them for their services. Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., Matron of the Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women, Euston Road, N.W., and Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., Matron of the Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham, N., were then elected to fill the vacancies created.

Resolutions.

The following Resolutions were then considered.

RESOLUTION I.

That the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland begs to enter a protest against the action of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in permitting its Registration Committee to recommend to the Council for Registration persons whose applications and references they have not investigated, and calls upon the Council to perform its duty to the Nurses and the public in this connection, as the Profession of Nursing holds the General Nursing Council responsible for the correctness of its Register.

Miss G. Lord, in moving this Resolution, said that she was sure all present felt with her that no words could express their indignation at the action of the General Nursing Council outlined in the Resolution. The Council had gone back on their own Rules and Regulations in handing over the scrutiny of applications for Registration to one official. They should most certainly be scrutinised by people authorised by Parliament to discharge this responsible duty—people who knew their job, and were willing in the public interest to give their invaluable expert knowledge to its performance.

The Resolution was carried unanimously, with enthusiasm.

RESOLUTION II.

That the Matrons' Council strongly deprecates the methods employed to remove Mrs. Bedford Fenwick from the Chair of the Registration Committee, and the election to that position in place of one of the most distinguished members of the Nursing Profession—of a medical man; with the result that certificates to practise as Registered Nurses now bear no signature of a Registered Nurse-member of the General Nursing Council, a fact which is calculated to depreciate the status of Nursing as a Profession.

The Matrons' Council, while loyally supporting the authority of the medical profession in the treatment of the sick, cannot recognise its right to the assumption of undue authority over Registered Nurses in the

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