

The House Committee of the Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary have received from the matron, on behalf of the nursing staff, a cheque for £1,880 3s. 2d., being the result of a bazaar held on November 23rd, 1921. In accordance with the wishes of the nursing staff, £500 of this has been invested by the trustees for the endowment of a cot, and the remainder placed to the general account.

The committee have acknowledged this magnificent gift to the matron and the nurses, but they desire to give some public expression of their gratitude, and at the same time to thank all those who helped their nursing staff by gifts in kind or money.

At a recent meeting of the Godstone (Surrey) Board of Guardians, the house committee presented a report from the master of the institution, which stated that the nurses resented the guardians going into their bedrooms unaccompanied by a responsible official or without their consent, as happened on a visit of two guardians recently. The bedrooms were regarded as the officers' private rooms. These matters might appear of little import, but were quite sufficient to unsettle a staff. In his many years' experience he had not heard of, nor had the occasion arisen for him to ask guardians to deal with, such a question before, and he much regretted the necessity to report the matter. The committee, having heard an explanation, decided to take no action.

The board, however, discussed the report. One lady member stated that another lady member and herself visited the nurses' quarters to inspect a recently fitted-up bedroom, because an applicant had refused an appointment as she did not like the bedroom accommodation. She desired to know if the guardians had the right to inspect the workhouse thoroughly or not. The chairman expressed the opinion that the guardians had a legal right to go anywhere, but they would take great care not to do anything to give chance for resentment or misunderstanding. A member urged that they had no power to go to the officers' private rooms without consent.

On the suggestion of the chairman, the board decided to express regret to the nurses that any resentment arose through the action of the guardians, and they would avoid any cause of it in the future.

We think the whole institution should be open to the Guardians, but that, when necessary to visit the domestic offices, they should be accompanied by the Matron.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF NURSES AT COPENHAGEN.

Miss Wilhelmina Jessen, the Secretary of the Danish Council of Nurses, informs us that the Business Meeting of the International Council of Nurses will be held in Copenhagen in the week, May 22nd to 27th, and expresses "the great pleasure we have in looking forward to greeting here in Copenhagen our dear colleagues from the other countries." The Nurses' National Organisations of Norway, Italy, and China are seeking affiliation with the International Council, and we do hope South Africa will come along in time and add its widespread influence to that of the Dominions of Canada, New Zealand, and the Empire of India already grouped in the International Council. Anyway, Miss Child is now in England and might act as a representative of the South African Trained Nurses' Association. How about the Irish Free State? The present title of our Council is "The National Council of Great Britain and Ireland." We presume that title is no longer tenable. But we must have our Irish colleagues linked up in the International Council—so, please, nurses of the Emerald Isle, get together and form the National Council of Irish Nurses. Think how dull the debates might become without your ready wit. Who has ever forgotten the historic passage of arms between Lord Knutsford and the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, and the triumph of the latter, at the International Meeting in London in 1909? "Best bit of the whole Congress; worth crossing the Atlantic to hear," was the opinion of the Canadian delegation

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We hope the Associations and Leagues grouped together in our National Council will be well to the fore on February 3rd, when the Copenhagen Meeting will be under discussion. It is time we all roused ourselves after the shock and exhaustion consequent upon the great War and began to come into touch again with the uprising generation of nurses throughout the world, and help them to attain their aspirations. Anyway, the nurses of Great Britain and Ireland can now take professional rank as "Registered Nurses" for the first time since the International Council was formed. That is evidence of real solid progress, which will be emphasised in the Report from our National Council, and on which we have no doubt we shall receive universal congratulations.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

There will be a meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council on Monday, January 30th, at 431, Oxford Street, W., at 5 p.m. It is important that as many members as possible shall be present as it is proposed to make an alteration in the Constitution and also to consider the position of Registered Nurses at the present time.

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