

MEETING AT ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL.

A meeting of members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to consider the coming election to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales under the Nurses' Registration Act, was held on Saturday, October 21st, 1922, at 3 p.m., at St. Thomas' Hospital. The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley presided.

A list of candidates which had been prepared by a Joint Committee composed of representatives of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Poor-Law Matrons' Association, and the Association of Hospital Matrons, was the subject for consideration. Sir Arthur Stanley, the chief speaker, laid great stress upon the fact that the first election was a very critical one; that nurses were called upon to choose for nomination members who would govern them for two or three years, and if the College failed at the first election to secure an adequate number of their members on the Council, they would prove (what a small number of people had often contended) that they were not capable of governing their own affairs. It was only by voting themselves, and getting everyone else they could to do the same, that the College would have a majority on the Council. From his own experience as a Member of Parliament (and he had had a good deal to do with elections), he realised how very difficult it was to get people to take an interest, but he most earnestly asked every College nurse to vote, as it would be very disappointing if they were not adequately represented on the next Council.

The first two names on the list were those of Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Lloyd-Still. The chairman said that he had always found Matrons very nice people, "if you do as they tell you!" (Laughter.)

When Miss Maude MacCallum asked if it were not a fact that Miss Lloyd Still had agreed to have the Syllabus of General Training scrapped, which had been drawn up by members of the General Nursing Council at a cost of hundreds of pounds to nurses, the Chairman thought that had nothing to do with the matter. The six Matrons selected by the Joint Committee having been adopted by the meeting, the Chairman passed on to the five Registered Nurses recommended, "who should not be past or present Matrons of hospitals"; but he informed the meeting he had very good reasons to believe this rule had been changed, and the words "not being past or present Matrons of Hospitals" deleted. Miss MacCallum asked Sir Arthur Stanley on what authority he put forward this statement, saying that she had been present at the last meeting of the General Nursing Council, when the rule was passed that these five Registered Nurses should *not* be Matrons past or present. She asked him if he had received private information from the Ministry of Health that this resolution of the Council was to be altered, because if so, it had been done secretly behind the backs of those representing the working nurses on the Council. He replied that he had *not* got his

information from the Ministry. He was evidently so sure of his ground, however, that Miss Suiss was selected in spite of the fact that she had been the Matron of a training school.

It was pointed out that if Miss H. Perry were chosen as their candidate for the Registered Mental Nurses, Wales would be included among their nominees, and Miss Villiers was chosen as a College representative for the Fever Nurses' Section. Mrs. Watson, of Sheffield (Secretary of the College of Nursing Centre there), pointed out that no nurse from Sheffield was on the list of proposed nominees, and another lady got up and proposed that Mrs. Watson herself should be put forward as a candidate. It was understood that she would represent "Private Nurses," as she was the proprietress of a nursing home. Mrs. Sutton, of Southampton, pointed out that all the candidates, so far, had been chosen from the north of England, and asked if any names had been sent to the College from the south, especially from Southampton. It was understood that no names had been brought forward. Miss Mary Butcher (Matron) was suggested as a Poor-Law nurse, and Miss Monk of the London Hospital proposed Miss Onslow, who she said was her Matron's Assistant.

Thus for nomination under the heading of the three Independent Nurses, there were five names suggested, and after voting had taken place it was found that Miss Cowlin had the most votes; but no very definite conclusion was arrived at with regard to these names, the Chairman stating that the list was still more or less open. The only thing that seemed to be definitely fixed, therefore, was the names of the six Matrons (Past and Present), Miss Smith as Superintendent of the Q.V.J.I.N., District, and Miss Suiss as Public Health representative, although she is no longer engaged in this branch of nursing.

Candidates recommended for Election by the Joint Committee of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Hospital Matrons' Association, and the Association of Poor Law Matrons.

Miss R. Cox-Davies, R.R.C., Member G.N.C.; Matron, Royal Free Hospital, W.C.

Miss A. Lloyd-Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., Member G.N.C.; Matron, St. Thomas' Hospital, S.E.

Miss E. M. Musson, R.R.C.; Matron, General Hospital, Birmingham.

Miss M. E. Sparshott, C.B.E., R.R.C., Member G.N.C.; Matron, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

Miss H. A. Alsop, Matron, Kensington Infirmary, W.

Miss C. Seymour Yapp, Member G.N.C.; Matron Poor Law Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Miss Ellinor Smith, Member G.N.C.; Superintendent for Wales, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

Miss E. C. Suiss, Member G.N.C.; late Matron, Miss G. Bremner, Nurses' Co-operation; Private Nurse.

Miss D. Coode, Sister-in-Charge, Preliminary Training School, St. Thomas' Hospital, S.E.

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