

influence. If she be of the lower third she will embitter, and justly so, the best men of the profession."

Speaking at the Annual Court of Governors of the Sunderland Royal Infirmary, the Mayoress, Mrs. Lawson, said she was delighted to see such a highly skilled staff of nurses present. Theirs was a most important profession, they were entrusted with the very lives of their patients. In other professions a mistake might involve the loss of a few pounds, but with them an error of judgment might make all the difference between life and death. She was glad to see that so many of them were equipping themselves thoroughly for their life work. Nurses who so willingly devoted their best energies to the interests of that Institution deserved in return to be treated with every possible consideration. She would very much like to see the Nurses' Pension Fund put on a more satisfactory basis. No one could do their best work when haunted by anxiety for the future. Those who gave the best years of their lives to the service of the Institution were entitled to look forward to an honourable and comfortable old age. She wished every success to the Infirmary, which she regarded as Sunderland's crowning glory, and she trusted that the happy relations now existing between the Committee and the nursing and medical staff might long continue.

At this Meeting presentations were made to Dr. Robinson, who has been connected with the Infirmary for nearly thirty years. The Matron, Miss Amour, was also honoured. She was presented with a framed portrait of herself, together with a wallet of Treasury notes. The portrait Miss Amour handed back to the Governors to be hung in the Institution.

The Chairman said that Miss Amour had been with them for twenty-five years. She began her training in the Infirmary in November, 1897, and in 1903 was appointed Assistant Matron, succeeding to the post of Matron in 1912. She had most admirably filled the position and he could not exaggerate the importance of her services.

Miss Amour, replying, said she was very deeply indebted to the Governors for all the kindnesses and consideration she had received from them during the twenty-five years she had had the honour to be connected with the Infirmary. She was proud to be a Royal Infirmary trained nurse and to have the honour to be Matron of one of the leading institutions in the country.

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

### The Agenda.

Agenda for the thirty-second meeting of the General Nursing Council to be held on Friday, February 16th, 1923, in Room 107, Third Floor, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, at 2.30 p.m.

#### 1. Election of Chairman.

Members are requested to send in their nominations not later than Saturday, February 10th, in order that Ballot Lists may be prepared.

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting.

#### 3. Adjourned business.

#### 4. Correspondence.

(1) Letter from Secretary, College of Nursing. (Circulated).

(2) Letter from Scotland referring to Rules (Circulated). (Minutes of last Council, pages 8 and 9).

#### 5. Statement by Returning Officer.

#### 6. Dr. Goodall will move:—

(1) That a special Committee of the Council be appointed to consider, report, and make recommendations to the Council upon Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co.'s "Report on System."

(2) That this special Committee consist of the General Purposes Committee, together with the Chairmen of the other Standing Committees.

(3) That the Chairman of the Council be Chairman of this Special Committee.

(4) That the quorum of this Committee be four.

7. The Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills will move:— That the General Purposes Committee be increased to six, of whom three will form a quorum.

#### 8. Election of Committees and dates of meeting.

#### 9. Any other business.

MARIAN S. RIDDELL,  
*Registrar.*

5th February, 1923.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

#### I. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

It is a most unusual and invidious procedure to require members of the Council to send in nominations for Chairman. These nominations should be made in writing on slips of paper, and folded and placed in the ballot box when the Council is assembled, otherwise, unless there is a tie, there is no necessity for the ballot provided for in the Rules.

We, of course, on principle consider a Registered Nurse should be Chairman and preside at meetings of General Nursing Councils, but under existing circumstances we know of no woman on the present Council who has had the energy to study Parliamentary procedure, and methods of conducting the business of a Statutory Body.

Thus, it is not improbable that we shall again be placed at the mercy of a medical dictatorship—

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