

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held, by the kind invitation of Miss Bickerton, R.R.C., the Matron, at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N., on Saturday, March 10th, at 3 p.m.

Further particulars will be announced later, as not only the Matron but the Nursing Staff are kind enough to be interested in the Meeting.

Miss Bickerton, progressive in the happiest vein, took a very active part in helping to obtain State Registration, and both she and her nurses were often to be seen in the "House."

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.

Dr. Pasteur Vallery-Badot, a grandson of the great Pasteur, whose centenary is now being celebrated, lecturing before the Royal Society said that no part of the homage which was being paid to Pasteur on the hundredth anniversary of his birth would have been dearer to him than that organised in England, the land of Jenner and Lister, in which he had found his warmest partisans, and some of his greatest friends.

It is claimed from the Rockefeller Institute that a Japanese bacteriologist working in New York, has isolated the microbe of influenza—a microbe known as "filter-passer" because it is so minute that it passes through the pores of a porcelain filter such as Pasteur used effectively to stop the passage of larger microbes, and the Japanese themselves used successfully in the Russo-Japanese war in the prevention of enteric fever. We seem within measurable distance of the fulfilment of the prediction of Pasteur: "It is in the power of man to make all parasitic diseases disappear from the earth."

The value of Medical Research, often belittled and never adequately financed, is once again demonstrated by the announcement that the Medical Research Council has discovered a property which can be utilised so that the yield of insulin is ten times as great as before, at no greater expense. Up to the present insulin, used in the treatment of diabetes, has only been obtainable from the pancreas, and its cost has been prohibitive. Now, we understand, it is also obtainable from fish, so that there is a far wider field from which to procure it.

The death in Berlin of Professor Röntgen—the discoverer, on November 8th, 1895, of the X-rays—reminds us of their widespread beneficent action in the saving of human life. In recent wars, and more especially the great European war, thousands of lives have been saved by their use, as by means of X-ray photographs foreign bodies could be accurately located, and the surgeons could use their skill with certainty in dealing with otherwise obscure cases.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, COPENHAGEN, MAY, 1922.

PRESENTED BY MISS J. C. CHILD (*Delegate and Overseas President, South African Trained Nurses Association*).

MADAM PRESIDENT, LADIES,—

It was with great pleasure I accepted the honour to convey to you greetings from the South African Trained Nurses' Association, as their delegate, to tell you how greatly we desire to be affiliated with the International Council of Nurses. For many years we have been wending our way with that object in view, for we realise that interchange of ideas and publicity of the higher standard of nursing, is beneficial to all public bodies.

For some years we have had Registration in South Africa after examination, according to the rule of the Colonial Medical Council. This has paved the way for present day requirements. Many pioneers in the early days, I mention a few of the notable women—Sister Henrietta, of Kimberley; Sister Mary Agatha, of Cape Town; Mother Jacoba, of Rhodesia—have done much to teach the true spirit of nursing, and that spirit of good is still very much alive in the hospitals of South Africa to-day, plus a greater technique and unity, which unity in the early days was not evident owing to need of organisation, and this made each hospital and town rather a law unto itself—isolated by distance and no publication of nursing matters. Indeed, we have often learned at the Cape what they were doing, for instance, in Johannesburg, from England, the news having been sent to the Editor of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It would then return, to those who took in the paper, and we, who had gone to South Africa, looked for this publication as eagerly as anything our English mail could bring.

The *South African Nursing Record* was published in 1913, by the editor, Dr. J. Tremble, showing how very ready we were in South Africa for organisation. Through this publication and the efforts of its editor and our Matrons in South Africa, notably Miss B. G. Alexander, the South African Trained Nurses' Association was started in 1914, and in a very short time all the provinces had a working Branch in most large towns. Once we had an organ, the Press, through which we could speak, we quickly found that the General Public were only too ready to avail themselves of speaking to us as a Profession, through the Association, and we found enormous improvement, often before suggested, but not till now taken advantage of.

The Memorandum and Articles of the Association were drawn up in 1919, by Mr. Ford, of Messrs. van Hulsteyns, Feltham & Ford, solicitors of Johannesburg, every point receiving consideration and every point of view being dealt with by the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)