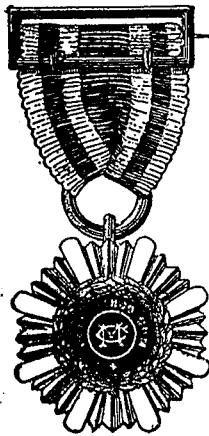


## THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



By kind invitation of Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., Matron, and the Committee of the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, a Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at that institution on Saturday, March 10th.

Before the meeting, members of the Council had the opportunity of seeing the hospital, which just now is in a transitional stage, accommodation being built for 50 extra beds, an additional operating theatre, and more nurses' bedrooms. When completed the hospital will have between 170 and 180 beds. The busy wards were in excellent order, the children's ward being specially bright and attractive. The well-appointed operating theatre testified to the large amount of work done there, and the "observation post" behind a low wall provided an excellent coign of vantage for lookers-on whose presence is not required in the theatre proper.

### THE MEETING.

When the Meeting was called to order, Miss Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., President, said:—

"Before beginning the business of this afternoon I wish to give expression to a feeling that is shared by everyone here, a feeling of profound regret that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is no longer on the General Nursing Council.

It is almost unbelievable that she should not be included on the body of those elected to carry out the provisions of the Act. But Mrs. Bedford Fenwick does but share the lot common to all pioneers. Almost invariably those who have toiled and striven for the good of the Community stand aside at the end, while the newer advocates of the cause step in and dominate.

We saw it with Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Lady Frances Balfour, and others, who should have been the first representatives of women in Parliament, but who were content to rest on their laurels, and leave to an American the proud position of being the first woman Member of Parliament.

Pioneers expect neither gratitude nor ovation; they are content to know that they are

the salt of the earth, without whom all progress would be impossible."

### RESOLUTION.

Miss Heather-Bigg then proposed from the chair the following Resolution:—

"That the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland profoundly regret that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's great powers of organisation and unparalleled knowledge of Parliamentary procedure should be lost to the General Nursing Council.

"The Matrons' Council would also congratulate the Independent Candidates on their election."

Miss Bickerton, supporting the Resolution, said that she endorsed all that Miss Heather-Bigg had said. It was incredible that Mrs. Fenwick should not be on the General Nursing Council after all her arduous work for State Registration of Nurses, and the fact that, but for her, we should not have had a Nurses' Registration Act.

She also commented on the fact that the Syllabus of Training in General Nursing was not yet signed.

The Resolution was carried unanimously, and with acclamation.

### MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and, arising out of the Minutes, it was resolved that the Resolution passed at the last meeting of the Council to be forwarded to the then Minister of Health, urging him to sign the Syllabus of Training in General Nursing, should be forwarded to the new Minister (Mr. Neville Chamberlain).

### CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Secretary notified a large number of letters of regret from members who were unable to be present, and other letters were dealt with.

One member, who is the Superintendent of a large staff of private nurses in the North, wrote: "The most practical question that arises in my mind is, Which political party is going to give most help to independent Nursing Organisations (such as my own), and how are we to organise on such lines as will best ensure the support of that party? My own mind has been made up on that question for a very long time: the Labour Party and Workers' Unions; but there is a 'time for all things,' and I wait the decisions of those who are wiser than myself."

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