

"The Hospital Committee should consider the serious question of overcrowding of the hospital."

We wonder if this institution is "recognised" as a Training School by the G.N.C.!

The voting on the question of certain alterations in the fees to be charged by private nurses in Victoria resulted in the following scale being adopted, which comes into force as from May 1st, 1923:—

	£	s.	d.
Ordinary Medical and Surgical Cases	3	3	0 per wk.
Mental, Alcoholic and Venereal Diseases	4	4	0 "
Infectious Diseases (Notifiable to Board of Health) ..	4	4	0 "
Obstetric Cases	3	3	0 "
and an extra £1 rs. for confinement.			
	£	s.	d.
Confinement Only	1	1	0
Performing last offices when specially called out to do so	1	1	0
Preparing and attending an operation on another patient in private house when general or spinal anaesthetic is given	1	1	0 extra.
Fee for 24 hours, including 4 hours away from patient's room	1	1	0
Fee for 12 hours	15		0

Although the cost of living is higher in Victoria than at home, the fees are less in some instances than those charged in London. For instance, our usual fee for ordinary medical and surgical cases is £3 13s. 6d.; maternity fees from £4 4s. to £5 5s.; and £1 rs. is the usual fee per one night or one day. Statistics prove that since higher fees have been charged, few private patients can afford whole-time nurses, and that cases are considerably shorter. Thus private nursing is more arduous, because a nurse is often not engaged until the patient is in a serious condition, and requires unremitting attention, and she often goes from one very serious case to another without attendance during a period of convalescence.

We know it is a good deal to expect our readers to go steadily through the lengthy reports published this week, but we invite them to do so, as they are full of matters of vital importance to our profession, which would not be seething in this witch's cauldron if nurses assumed more professional responsibility.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, held at the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on June 14th, was a great success, and it was a very happy party which met at luncheon before the meeting.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., President of the Council, presided, and there were present, amongst the guests seated on her right, Miss J. Bicknell, Director of Division of Nursing, Department of Health, New Zealand; and on her left Miss Aeschmann, *Diplômée* of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing at Bordeaux, Miss J. C. Child, Overseas President, South African Trained Nurses' Association, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., as well as many representative officials and members of the National Council.

The tables were beautifully decorated by Miss Beatrice Cutler, S.R.N., Hon. Secretary of the Council, and, needless to say, the luncheon, prepared and served by the expert domestic staff, was excellently done.

White soup, Scotch salmon, mayonnaise sauce, galantine, new potatoes, lemon and black-currant jellies, trifle—presented in little glass dishes with angelica handles to represent baskets—strawberry cream ices, and coffee.

It was evidently a "best hat" gathering, and everyone present seemed full of life and spirit.

There was only one toast, "The King," which was, of course, honoured standing and with great enthusiasm, after which everyone adjourned to the drawing-room for the business meeting, which was crowded, including two representatives of the Dutch Nurses' Association (Nosokomos), Sister Verhagen and Sister Van der Berg.

PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST STATUTORY REGISTER TO MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

Before the meeting began Miss A. M. Bushby, S.R.N., took the chair, and said that the publication of the first State Register of Nurses appeared to be a fitting occasion to present a specially bound copy to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. She would invite Miss Breay to make the presentation.

Miss Breay handed to Mrs. Fenwick a copy of the first Statutory Register, bound in rose-coloured morocco, the border lined and pearled in gold, the Tudor Rose in each corner, and in the centre a Lozenge suspended from a ribbon

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