

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, on October 27th, at the Club, Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 7, at 3 p.m., promises to be specially interesting. The President, Miss Kathleen A. Smith, S.R.N., R.R.C., will give a report on the recent meeting of the National Council of Women in Edinburgh, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., will speak on "The International Moral Sense."

### THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

We hear the appeal for Westminster Hospital is going very well, and when re-opened, after reconstruction, it will be in the best position to meet all the scientific demands made upon it that are necessary for modern surgery and medicine. The Prince of Wales, who is President, is deeply interested in the work, and has written to say he will visit the hospital when it is ready.

The Duke and Duchess of York will be present at a ball at Claridge's on November 29th in aid of the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E.

Panel doctors are loyally uniting in their dispute with the Minister of Health on the decrease of fees, and their resignations are being received in thousands. We sympathise with this professional body of men on this question, as it is not primarily one of fees, but of professional independence, and therefore of professional efficiency. The doctors wisely decline to be governed by lay authority, and according to Dr. A. Welby, M.D., the General Secretary of the Medical Practitioners' Union, this fight really commenced in March, 1922, when Sir Alfred Mond was Minister of Health. Sir Alfred gave an undertaking to the approved societies that they should have a voice in the terms and conditions of service of the doctors. The doctors have in consequence been organising ever since.

Under the circumstances we should have imagined that the medical representatives on the General Nursing Council would have realised the resentment of the Registered Nurses to the suppression of their professional liberties by a lay and medical directorate supported by self-interested members of the College of Nursing. Alas, how difficult it is to feel the shoe pinch unless it is on one's own foot.

Small-pox is spreading in many parts of the country, and reasonable people who do not set their opinion up against scientific research, are becoming increasingly indignant at the futility of the Ministry of Health in dealing with this danger. The Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday passed a resolution against parents being allowed to obtain any exemption

from vaccination for their children. It is to be hoped that other influential public bodies will follow suit.

The bazaar at Rotherham opened by the Countess of Scarborough, in aid of the Rotherham District Nursing Association, realised £1,109 6s., an excellent result, as the sum aimed at was £1,000.

A five-days' bazaar, originally organised to raise £10,000, which closed at Keighley, Yorkshire, on Saturday, realised £31,000 net for the local Victoria Hospital. Congratulations! They evidently know how to organise bazaars and touch philanthropic hearts at Keighley.

### LEGAL MATTERS.

The police courts constantly report the misdemeanours of a class of persons called "nurse," a number of whom apparently disported themselves as V.A.D.s in Red Cross Hospitals during the war.

Apparently no steps whatever are taken by the police to prove that these women have any right of association with the nursing profession, and, in consequence, all their evil deeds help to depreciate our moral standards in the opinion of the public.

The Nurses' Registration Act has now been in force for nearly four years; but owing to the unholy muddle of our affairs by bureaucracy and autocracy, only some 6,000 of the 40,000 candidates for registration have so far appeared in a published list.

Now with the dangerous Modification Order forced through Parliament, thousands of untrained, and therefore dangerous persons, not only professionally, but no doubt morally, may be placed upon the General Part of our Register.

We wonder if one of the forty-three clerical workers in the G.N.C. office is deputed to deal with these important legal matters, which are constantly before the Courts.

When we were Chairman of the Penal Cases and Disciplinary Committee the Registrar was directed to keep a list pasted up of misdemeanants and criminals posing in Courts of Law as "hospital nurses." Since the passing of the Modification Rule V.A.D.s and other classes exploiting the public should be added to this list, and each name carefully scrutinised before a candidate is accepted for Registration. The case of Charlotte Louisa Paquet to which the Press has devoted a good deal of space, and who is still on remand, is a case in point.

The fact that the General Nursing Council has recently knowingly placed a woman on the Register who, if prosecuted under the Midwives' Act, was liable to twelve months' hard labour, will, we should imagine, make it exceedingly difficult to prosecute and remove from the Nurses' Register a person cited for the usual misdemeanours for which "nurses" appear in the police courts.

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