

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, on Saturday, October 27th, at 3 p.m.

The Hon. Treasurer, Miss S. A. Villiers, S.R.N., introduced and welcomed the new President, Miss Kathleen A. Smith, S.R.N., who was very cordially received.

Before the business of the meeting began, the President said it was with great regret she announced that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was unable through indisposition to be present to give her address on "The International Moral Sense." It would, she knew, be a great disappointment to the Council.

Miss Breay gave a message from Mrs. Fenwick, who had asked her to say how sorry she was to be unable to be present. There were few occasions in the last forty years when she had not fulfilled a professional engagement.

It was unanimously resolved to send a message of sympathy to Mrs. Fenwick, and to express the disappointment of those present at her absence.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence included the following letters:—

LETTER FROM THE HOME SECRETARY.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that the Resolution of Condolence of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland upon the occasion of the death of Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, has been laid before His Majesty, who was pleased to receive the same very graciously.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. EAGLESTON.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
The Matrons' Council of
Great Britain and Ireland.

A letter was read from Miss L. E. Ashby, the Nurse Organiser of the Glaxo Mothers' Help Bureau, in reply to the official letter of thanks sent after the visit of the Council to Glaxo House.

DEAR MISS HULME,—Your very kind letter of to-day has been placed before those members of the Glaxo Staff who were associated with your visit to Glaxo House. It is a great source of satisfaction to all of us to know that the afternoon you spent here was so enjoyed by you all. Some of the other members of your Council have been kind enough to write us very charming letters, which, it goes without saying, are greatly appreciated by us.

Yours truly,

L. E. ASHBY.

Also letters from Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., and from Miss Norah Green, General Secretary, National Council of Women; and from a number of Members regretting their inability to attend.

APPLICATIONS.

Applications for membership were then considered and accepted.

REPRESENTATIONS AT MEETINGS.

Action was taken on invitations from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to send representatives to a demonstration on Inequalities in the Marriage Service, to a Conference on the Separate Taxation of Married Persons, and to take part in a Deputation in support of the Guardianship of Infants Bill in the event of Women's Organisations being received by the Home Secretary. It was further decided to send representatives to the meeting at the Kingsway Hall, on November 14th, on the subject of Child Assault.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

It was unanimously agreed to invite Miss M. Heather-Bigg to accept the position of a Vice-President of the Council.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Miss Kathleen Smith, President, then gave an interesting account of the meeting of the National Council of Women in Edinburgh, at which she represented the Matrons' Council. In doing so she said she would like to congratulate THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on its report of the meeting, which those present had no doubt read, and which embodied most of the things she had intended to say.

A most interesting Annual Report (the 28th) was presented by Miss Norah Green, General Secretary, covering an immense amount of work done. She was amazed, after hearing this report; to learn that the whole of the work in the office of the N.C.W. was done by three women, and her mind went to 12, York Gate, with its staff of 43 persons.

One of the most interesting Receptions was that by the ladies of the University in its Library, and the service in the beautiful Cathedral of St. Giles was one to be remembered.

Miss Smith said that her general impression of the Conference was that these meetings must do a certain amount of good for all concerned. Such Conferences drew together women of all kinds of thought from their own Council and from the members of the affiliated societies. Not only from the platform but from general conversation and meeting together, much could be discussed and many seeds sown.

The women who attended the Conference were those who took a keen interest in various activities or they would not be there, and she felt that for members of the Nursing Profession, especially, it helped to broaden its ideas, and raise its ideals. Speaking for herself, personally, she had come back from Edinburgh with a much wider outlook upon the various questions which affect the women and children of to-day.

The meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the President, proposed by Miss Ramsden, and those present then adjourned for tea in the Club dining room.

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