

MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the General Council was held on Monday, 23rd instant. The Report from the Executive Committee to the Council dealt with the various activities of the Association during the previous quarter, and more especially with the steps taken in connection with the action of the Parliamentary Medical Committee in the House of Commons, in order to widen the power of access to the State Register, thereby establishing a grave injustice to the public in granting to women, inadequately trained, a State Certificate of efficiency.

It was moved by Miss Drakard, seconded by Miss Bramwell, and carried, that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the General Nursing Council expressing the hope that the Council would exercise the powers accorded to it under the provisions of the Act and admit to the Register only those whom they are satisfied "have adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick."

A letter was received from the National Union of Trained Nurses notifying the Council of the decision of the Union to dissolve on July 31st. It was moved by Miss Cattell, seconded by Miss Swaby Smith, and carried unanimously, that, in the letter forwarded to the Hon. Secretary expressing the Council's regret on learning of the decision to dissolve the Union, there should also be placed on record the appreciation of the Members of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association of the splendid services which the Union had rendered towards the furtherance of a healthy organisation of the Profession, of the altruism which has characterised the policy and work of its leaders, and the high ideals of comradeship and mutual help which the Royal British Nurses' Association has experienced in all its connections with the National Union of Trained Nurses.

MR. HORTON'S RECITAL.

"A perfectly heavenly afternoon" was the verdict of a member of the audience after Mr. Horton's Recital at the Club, on Saturday, July 14th. We agree, for Mr. Horton possesses a gift that lifts the consciousness of his audience right into the very atmosphere of the scene which his language portrays. First were we transported to the land of Hiawatha, to the sad days when his country was held in the grip of the cold and cruel winter, when to his wigwam there came the two guests who "waited not to be invited, did not parley at the doorway," the terrible, unwelcome guests of famine and fever, those spectres who gazed hollow-eyed and fearsome into the lovely face of Laughing Water. Then, exquisitely reminiscent from out of a background of anguish, we had a glimpse of the days when Minnehaha journeyed through the forests with her husband, journeyed far from the land of the Dacotahs to the land of Hiawatha. Then the song of birds in thickets, the glistening of the streamlets, the fragrance of the air and the voice and laughter of Minnehaha sank out of our consciousness again and we shuddered as we watched her trembling, freezing, burning under the looks of the two unwelcome guests in the wigwam in that cold and cruel winter. Heavy hearted, we followed Hiawatha through his anguish, and with him said farewell to the lovely Laughing Water.

After Hiawatha we had a version of "Simple Simon and the Pieman," first in the style of Charles Dickens, and then after the manner of the "Immortal Will." Then the tragic story of Bingo fairly convulsed the audience, peal after peal of laughter followed each new vicissitude of the unfortunate autobiographer whose fate became so entangled with that of the luckless quadruped. One of the most delightful parts of the whole entertainment was "The Garland of Lyrics." There were lyrics grave and gay, lyrics of common, everyday life, and lyrics that came from the worlds of the goblins, the gnomes, from the pretty worlds of the fairies. Each had a beauty of its own, each some lesson to give, each some new feeling to inspire, for Mr. Horton has a wonderful power to enter into the spirit of each writer, and his Recital is one that will live long in the memory of those who were present. It was a marvellous re-introduction to the great writers of our own and other days, one suggestive of a rich abundance of literary treasures for the discovery and enjoyment of which we find, alas! so little opportunity in these busy, hurrying days. All the more grateful are we for an afternoon on which we had some thing of their beauty brought before the eyes of our souls through the medium of that exquisite means of interpretation—a fine dramatic gift cultivated to the highest degree of perfection, characterised by an appreciation of the dignity and beauty of our English language, while the interplay of humour and merriment served to make the whole programme one complete pleasure.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Horton, and said that certainly the afternoon's entertainment should indeed prove an impulse and inspiration for the new Dramatic Society. Miss Parsons, in seconding the motion, said that she never lost an opportunity to be present on occasions such as this; she had had considerable difficulty in attending that afternoon, and it had indeed been worth the effort, for it was one of the most delightful recitals she had ever enjoyed.

GREATER LONDON—OVERHEARD AT THE CLUB.

Official (to new page, just imported from a country village): "Go to the other office along the hall, and inquire whether they have plenty of half-penny stamps. If they have, ask them to give you a good supply for these envelopes; if not, ask for a pound, and go to the post office for more."

Page (smiling and breathless, half an hour later): "Madam, I have been to the post office, and they say they have plenty of stamps and could manage a pound's worth. Shall I go for them?"

GIFTS.

Miss Bell, Miss Bishop, Miss Liddiatt, Miss McCash, Miss A. E. Macdonald, flowers; Master Wormald, flowers and duck.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)