

THE NURSES' CHAMPION.

We tender our most heartfelt congratulations to Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., on his splendid victory in the recent Parliamentary Election. When it was realised that a very concentrated attack would be made on the constituency of South-West St. Pancras, nurses of the Old Guard in the fight for State Registration determined that here was an opportunity to pay some part of that debt of honour which they owe to Major Barnett, to whom they realise they owe their Registration Act.

First in the field of any canvassers were Miss E. J. Hurlston, S.R.N., and a group of members of the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, W.1, and, directly the word was given, they began a house-to-house canvass, which proved potent in substituting dark blue bills for red ones in quite a number of windows.

Again, Miss Isabel Macdonald and members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in uniform, toured South-West St. Pancras with its splendid banner on polling day, and the record of the car at the end of the day showed that they had covered 50 miles, displaying their slogan, "Vote for Barnett, the Nurses' Champion," on one side of the banner, and on the other, "He never failed us, he won't fail you."

Early on the morning of October 29th, the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council sent to Park Lodge, Major Barnett's house, a plant of white heather, crimson roses, and dark blue violets, inscribed:—

"With cordial good wishes from the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, in the hope and in anticipation of a large majority for the Member for South-West St. Pancras in the last Parliament, in the present election.

"God save the King."

But though hopes were high, naturally everyone at 431, Oxford Street anxiously scanned the "writing on the wall" at Selfridge's opposite, until, at 3 a.m., they learnt that all was well, and that Major Barnett had been returned with the splendid majority of 3,250, and that he had polled 4,779 more votes than at the last election; then they could retire to rest, thankful, happy and content.

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS

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

The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Saturday, November 15th, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., at 3 p.m.

As the business to be transacted is of the utmost importance, it is to be hoped every member eligible to attend the meeting will make an effort to be present.

The meeting will sit from 3 to 4.30 p.m.—when tea will be served—and resume business at 5 p.m.

DELEGATES' FUND.

The financial policy of our National Council has been hitherto entirely self-supporting—the only basis on which self-government can be maintained, and it is to be hoped that the fatal policy now so much encouraged by those who manage nurses' organisations—through charitable support, will never be adopted in our National and International Councils—as it means not only loss of

power but loss of self-respect, and the inculcation of a spirit of "cadge."

It is very urgent, therefore, that we should raise a fund to subsidise the expenses of our official delegates—who will be able to attend the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors next July. Whilst in the past delegates have most generously paid the cost of representing our National Council themselves, we do not think it is just that they should continue to do so. If, therefore, those of their colleagues who sympathise with this view will send what they can afford to the Delegates' Fund, c.o. Miss M. Breay, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., it will prove their love of independence and enable the Council to select the best women whether they can afford the entire cost of attending the International meeting or not.

Members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., who attended in an unofficial capacity the Nursing Conference at Copenhagen last year did so at the expense of the College; and very large sums are disbursed for Red Cross workers, who travel at the cost of this charitable fund in great comfort and luxury.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses (London, 1899), has consented to give a short Address at the Opening Session of the Triennial Meeting of the International Council, to be held at Helsingfors, Finland, on July 20th, 1925. She has chosen the title "The Trained Nurses' Part in Peace." This great question needs international consideration, for Nursing is now not only an indispensable asset in war—as no army can go into battle without the "pukka red cape" at its heels, but—from intimate experience of the horrors of war—no section of the community has more right to stand forth, and protest against the sacrifice of youth to the Moloch of carnage, and mutilation, until Reason has said its say. The inspiration of modern nursing is prevention of disease—and the acute suffering attendant on, and resulting from, war is an outrage to human intelligence. "The Trained Nurses' Part in Peace" is not only to help patch up broken bodies and spirits, but to prove how lovely and precious a thing is buoyant life, and the cruelty of crushing it out of existence. No pacifist creed has ever found favour in nursing ranks. Perhaps we may claim that military nursing is its most popular phase; but surely, the day is dawning when Chivalry may be invoked in preventing war. We need to reason out this matter. What do broken-hearted wives and fathers and mothers say? And the halt and the maimed and the blind? There is little glamour glistening through their tears. Duty is the main-spring of nursing. A nurse's duty is, surely, to increase the world's joys and minimise grief. War brings all sorrows in its trail. Let us seek out our Part in Peace.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held at the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, November 5th, at 3 p.m., when amongst the business for consideration will be the reception of reports of the Conference of the "National Council of Women" (always a very interesting meeting), held at Brighton in October.

After an adjournment for tea Miss Helen Pearse, Superintendent of the L.C.C. School Nurses, will speak on "The Present Position of the International Council of Nurses."

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