

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL. RESOLUTIONS.

The following Resolution, carried unanimously at the last meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, has been sent to the Minister of Health:—

Resolved—That the Registered Nurses Parliamentary Council desires to express its thanks to the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., P.C., for acceding and giving effect to its petition for the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider the rules of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, with regard to the prescribed training for Nurses, and the reservation of seats on the Council for Matrons. The Council desires to express its satisfaction at the recommendation of the Committee, that at the next election "the eleven places allotted to Nurses on the General Part of the Register should be thrown open to any Nurse registered on the General Part of the Register." The Council desires further to express its regret that the Select Committee did not recommend that the Scheme of Training should be prescribed by rule, and thus made obligatory on approved Nurse-training schools. It respectfully asks that publicity may be given to the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown on the legal aspect of section 3 (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act, called by Sir Richard Barnett during the evidence of Mr. L. G. Brock, C.B., before the Select Committee, but to which no reference is made in that Committee's Report.

An Unsatisfactory Reply.

The following letter has been received by Miss Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., President of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, from the Minister of Health.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to advert to your letter of the 4th instant, and with regard to the request that publicity may be given to the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown on the legal aspect of Section 3 (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act, I am to state that on reference to the Minutes of Evidence before the Select Committee on the General Nursing Council, it will be seen that the matter in question was not referred to the Law Officers. The Minister acted upon the advice of the Department's Legal Advisers and it would be contrary to practice to publish the exact terms of that advice.

I am, Madam, Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) P. BARTER.

We have no doubt that sooner or later, we hope sooner, the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, called for by Major Sir Richard Barnett, will be obtained on this much contested point.

The following Resolution, also carried unanimously, has been sent to Major Sir Richard Barnett, M.P.:—

Resolved—That the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council desires to express to Major Sir Richard Barnett its sincere thanks for his good offices in securing the appointment of the Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider the rules of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales with regard to the prescribed training for Nurses, and the reservation of seats on the Council for Matrons, and for his masterly conduct of the case in the Committee.

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council notes with pleasure that the recommendation of the Select Committee that "the eleven places allotted to Nurses on the General Part of the Register should be thrown open to any Nurse registered on the General Part of the Register" at the next election, proves that the action taken by Sir Richard Barnett in the House of Commons on March 14th, 1923, "that the Registered Nurses should elect eleven Nurses to represent them, and that they may be Matrons or not, exactly as the Nurses please," has been completely justified.

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council at its first meeting since the King has honoured Sir Richard Barnett by conferring upon him titular honours, desires to convey to him the sincere pleasure with which it learnt of this well-merited recognition, and to express the hope that the country will benefit for many years from his devotion to duty in the House of Commons.

LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

A General meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses will be held in the Medical and Surgical Theatre at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Saturday, December 12th at 3 p.m. At its conclusion Miss Le Geyt will give a short lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, entitled "With a party of British Delegates to Helsingfors."

LEEDS GENERAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

In many cases anticipation is more pleasing than realisation, but in what I shall endeavour shortly to describe, the realisation of our ambitions far exceeds the anticipations of the most optimistic.

Re-unions are not always a success, because people who have known each other in bygone times meet again on the fields of their earlier endeavour, have in the interim developed fresh associations and interests, may find they are totally unable to renew acquaintance with their former colleagues with anything like the zeal they expected. Happily the Re-union at the Leeds General Infirmary on Saturday, October 31st, was a great success. Miss Innes, R.R.C., D.N., the distinguished and energetic Matron, received, for the first time in the history of that Institution, Sisters and Nurses of former days and those of to-day. Of the 78 members who had accepted the invitation to be present at this, the Inaugural Meeting, many had come long distances under weather conditions which were totally unfavourable, and the enthusiasm displayed was so great that the programme of music could not be carried out owing to the preference of those present to wander from group to group exchanging reminiscences. When one has been accustomed to remember a Sister who (from a "Pro's" point of view) was "stiff and starchy," and then is presented to a charming personality in fashion's latest whim, one realises that the stiffness and the starchiness were more apparent than real, and assumed for that discipline which is essential in any large training school.

It came as a surprise to those who had worked in the Infirmary as long ago as 37 years, to find friends who were contemporary with them.

Conversation was stimulated by a delightful afternoon tea served in the Sisters' Sitting Room, and for a period of over two hours the hum of conversation proved that the friendships made during training were friendships indeed.

Many were delighted to walk again in the wards, which, in some instances at least, "seemed just as yesterday." Many Nurses however, became lost both topographically, as well as with bewilderment, in the splendid new extensions, which during the last few years have been added to the old Leeds General Infirmary of 30 years ago.

Those who were responsible for this initial attempt at the formation of the Nurses' League were highly satisfied at its results, and felt that the success of all future meetings was already assured.

The strength needed to move a rock is considerable, after that its momentum carries it along.

A design for a Badge has been chosen by the Board for the Leeds General Infirmary. It is hoped very shortly this will be procurable on application. Probable price, 7s. 6d.

E. L. HEBBLETHWAITE, *Hon. Secretary.*

The Report of the General Meeting of the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League is unavoidably held over.

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