

prescribed by Rule before having to pass the Prescribed Examination under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and to again appeal to him to obtain an opinion from the Law Officers of the Crown on this point of such vital importance to the Nursing Profession.

It will be remembered that this point came up before the Select Committee of the House of Commons last July, and Major Sir Richard Barnett pressed for the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown which, however, was not then forthcoming. Sooner or later we hope it will be obtained and made public.

THE MIDWIVES AND MATERNITY HOMES BILL.

The Midwives and Maternity Homes Bill was then considered and in this connection strong exception was taken to the Bill having been read a second time before it was in print, thus depriving those whom it affected of an opportunity of acquainting themselves with its provisions, and taking action before it was referred to a Standing Committee.

A letter was read from Miss L. Ramsden, Vice-President of the Midwives Institute, stating that there is a strong feeling in some quarters in favour of delegation of powers to the smaller Local Authorities to which the members of the Midwives Institute greatly object, believing that it would increase the difficulties under which the Midwife works, and lead to overlapping, and saying further that they are asking their Members of Parliament to oppose efforts made to introduce, in any form, delegation of powers from the Local Supervising Authorities, *i.e.*, the County Councils, or County Borough Councils to the smaller Local Authorities.

SUPPORT OF THE R.N.P.C.

The R.N.P.C. was in entire sympathy with this view, and took steps to express its opinion against the delegation of powers, which was permitted by the Midwives' Act, 1902, and revoked in the Act of 1918.

The Council strongly objected to Clause 4, which recognised male midwives, whereas no such persons have hitherto been recognised, or registered under the Midwives' Acts, and directed that a Resolution should be sent to the Members of Standing Committee A, expressing its repugnance to such an innovation.

It considered that no action should be taken in regard to the registration of Maternity Homes, until the Select Committee now sitting to enquire into the question of the inspection and supervision of Nursing Homes, has presented its Report to Parliament, as all such Homes should be registered and supervised by one authority.

Action has already been taken in regard to the Nursing Homes' Bill and it was decided that it was not necessary at the present time to take further steps.

The Meeting then terminated.

PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

It is with profound regret that many nurses besides the members of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses will learn of the resignation by Miss Maude MacCallum of the position of Hon. Secretary, the reason for which is, of course, her very serious illness.

It is a grievous blow to the Union that its Secretary, by whose devotion and ability it became a force which commanded attention in Parliament and elsewhere, should have found it necessary to take this step. Whatever may be its destiny in the future, and whoever may be appointed to succeed her, it will never have an Hon. Officer more devoted to its interests, or more enthusiastic in courageously teaching and practising self-dependence, than Maude MacCallum.

GUY'S HOSPITAL PAST AND PRESENT NURSES' LEAGUE.

Just as we are closed for press the Guy's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League are holding their Annual General Meeting and Dinner, always most pleasant and important functions. As usual competitive Exhibitions of Photographs, Paintings, Sketches, Needlework, &c., are being held. Prizes have been placed at the disposal of the Judges, and awards are being made. The exhibits, especially the needlework and photographs are usually very beautiful, and this year's will, no doubt, be no exception to the rule.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The spring "At Home" of the University College Hospital Nurses' League will be held on Saturday, May 29th, at 3.30 p.m. at the Trained Nurses' Institute, Fluntley Street, W.C.1.

The new Nurses' Home, and the Obstetric Hospital will be open for inspection.

GLADYS DALE, *Hon. Sec.*

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Annual Report for 1925.

We publish below the report of the Irish Nurses' Association adopted at its Annual Meeting recently held by permission of the Committee of the Nurses' Club at 54, Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin.

At this our first Annual General Meeting we wish to express our very keen appreciation and thanks to the Irish Matrons' Association for their kindly interest and help in re-organising the Irish Nurses' Association and especially would we like to thank their President, Miss Reeves, who has many times come to our aid, and also to Miss Halbert, who has been instrumental in enrolling many members. St. Vincent's Hospital is leading by a long way in regard to membership.

We applied for affiliation to the National Council of Trained Nurses of the Irish Free State in May, and two of our members have been elected as Delegates to the International Council of Trained Nurses.

We have intervened with success in matters relating to the conditions of service of some of our members.

Grave complaints have reached us regarding the partially-trained women who are doing the work that ought to be entrusted to those fully trained and competent to undertake it, and a circular letter has been sent to Doctors, Matrons, and Homes.

The response to this letter has been most gratifying, and we hope to continue our activities in this direction and to educate the general public who employ and are interested in the trained Nurse.

We are extremely anxious to start a Benevolent Fund as so many Nurses feel that they cannot bear the idea of being dependent on outside help when illness and old age comes on.

We also hope to arrange for quarterly meetings so that the members could meet and discuss questions relating to our welfare and profession and so bring us more closely together and stimulate interest in the Association.

Miss Butler, our President, was appointed Matron of Holles Street Hospital shortly after being elected President, and she felt that she could not, on account of her new duties and responsibilities, devote the time to the work of the Association which she would have liked to do and so has regretfully resigned.

There are so many things waiting to be done and with unity and strength so much might be accomplished, and we earnestly ask for the co-operation of every trained Nurse.

The result of election of Officers and Executive was then

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