

purpose by six Fellows, or, in the case of Members, by six Members, respectively, in the following terms:—

I, .....being a Fellow (or Member) of the College hereby nominate ..... as a candidate for election to the Council of the College believing that she is well qualified both by professional knowledge and personal qualities to be of much assistance to the College as a Member of the Council.

Signature .....

The Ballot paper shall be as follows:—

**Election of Councillors.**

The following candidates have been proposed by six Fellows of the College (or six Members of the College) to serve as Councillors for the ensuing three years.

Fellows of the College will place an X against the names of not more than three of the candidates whom they wish to represent them on the Council of the College for the ensuing three years.

**List of Candidates.**

Names,	Positions Held,	Votes,
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The form of the Ballot paper for Members of the College for Election as members of the Council shall be the same as the above except that only one Member instead of three Fellows will be voted for to fill the one vacancy each year.

**NOT A SURGICAL TWEENIE.**

Points of primary importance to both doctors and nurses were concerned in a case heard before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury in the King's Bench Division of the High Court on November 1st and 2nd, in which a patient, Miss Marjorie Rose Beckh, claimed damages from Mr. Neil Sinclair, F.R.C.S., for injuries caused her from burning by a hot water bottle which the plaintiff alleged was due to the negligence of the surgeon. The surgeon admitted that the patient was burned during the operation, but denied responsibility.

For the patient it was stated that the doctor said he would require a nurse at the operation which it was agreed should be performed, and she asked him to choose one, and on March 30th, 1926, Miss Verney presented herself. The operation took place the following day; when she came out of the anæsthetic she was in intense pain in the right knee, which was bandaged.

For the plaintiff it was alleged that a surgeon was responsible for the negligence of a person who was assisting him at an operation and was under his control.

It was alleged that Miss Beckh was unable to put her leg to the ground until May 10th, 1926, and owing to the injury to the nerves she must always suffer pain.

On the question as to who was responsible for the hot water bottles, Mr. Donald Armour, C.M.G., said that a modern operation was a ritual at which, if it was to be successful, every detail must be carried out with meticulous care. Those present at an operation constituted a team, each member of which was trained in his own duties. The preparation of a patient for the operation was entrusted to the nurse, including the task of seeing that hot water bottles were not in dangerous proximity to him. The modern nurse was a highly trained and skilled technician, not a surgical "tweenie."

Mr. H. S. Souttar, F.R.C.S., said that unless there was a separation of functions at an operation it would be impossible. The care of hot water bottles was the function of the nurse.

The Lord Chief Justice ruled that there was no case to go to the jury. He was satisfied that Mr. Sinclair was not responsible for the negligence, if negligence there were. Of Miss Verney, it was common ground that she was to be paid by Miss Beckh, and was in no sense the servant or agent of Mr. Sinclair.

The Judge therefore withdrew the case from the jury and entered judgment for the defendant on the claim and the counter-claim with costs.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.**

**TRAINED NURSING NUNS.**

Miss Reimann, Secretary to the International Council of Nurses, sends us the additional interesting information relative to our article on "Trained Nursing Nuns."

"Nuns have been members of the Boards of Nurse Examiners for a number of years in several of the States or Provinces of the United States and Canada. In several places, also in the U.S.A. and Canada, Nuns are now members of the Boards of Directors of the State Nurses Associations. To give an example, the State of Minnesota includes a nun among the members of its Board of Directors.

"As regards Europe, in Denmark, the two Deaconess 'Motherhouses' there have worked with the Danish Council of Nurses for several years. Denmark was, I believe, the first country in Europe to include religious sisters as members of its National Nurses' Association. The deaconesses had to work hard there to raise their standards in order to gain admission, but, at length, managed to attain the standard required. In a number of countries in Central and Eastern Europe for the past few years, nuns have taken their course of training together with lay students in professional schools, working under the same conditions, the only difference being that they do not live in the nurses' homes, and also take their meals outside. I have had the opportunity of observing personally the hearty spirit of co-operation which exists between lay nurses and nuns and deaconesses in countries where they have taken their training together.

"So far as I know, the first country in Europe where Roman Catholic sisters have joined a professional organisation of nurses is France. This is a splendid achievement, and will, I feel sure, have a great influence on other countries, such as, for instance, Germany and the Irish Free State."

The difference between deaconesses and nuns may here be usefully re-stated, as there is often a confusion of ideas in regard to them. As we are told in "A History of Nursing," "The earliest Orders of women workers in the Church, and the ones especially concerned with nursing, were those of the Deaconesses and Widows. Later appeared the Virgin, the Presbyteress, the Canoness, and the Nun."

Deaconesses were originally ordained persons in the ministry of the Church, in which, as at the present day, there are three Orders—bishops, priests and deacons. The Order of deacons included also deaconesses, and the deaconess taught, catechised and assisted at the altar and communicated the women with the Cup, the deacons communicating the men. The deaconess's liturgical dress was the diaconal alb, maniple and stole.

The first deaconess, so far as is known, was Phoebe of Cenchrea, the friend of St. Paul who testified of her "she hath been a succourer of many and of myself also."

It will be remembered that in the Nursing Pageant in London in 1911, Phoebe, in liturgical dress, was represented by Miss Beatrice Kent.

The ordination of deaconesses to an Ecclesiastical Order, after a period of considerable activity, fell into abeyance. Recently it has been revived within restricted limits by the English branch of the Church.

The name of deaconess has been adopted by various communities of women, the best known probably being that at Kaiserswerth, on the Rhine, founded by Freiderike Fliedner, both because of its widespread activities, and because Miss Florence Nightingale gained experience at Kaiserswerth, which helped to qualify her for her life-long work.

The candidates are set aside at a solemn service at the

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