

It was agreed that the danger of the profession of Nursing being degraded by Labour organisations to a regulated trade was very real, and must be vigilantly watched and opposed.

Delegates to the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Miss E. Edmondson, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, were elected to represent the Council at the forthcoming Conference in June at Aberdeen.

The Committee had before it the Memorandum submitted by the National Council of Women to the *Lancet* Commission on Nursing. Whilst recognising that it was an expression of lay opinion and contained suggestions which it approved, the Committee disapproved of certain suggested remedies under Education—especially the suggestion that School Certificates "might well be recognised by the General Nursing Council as a substitute for their preliminary examination." The Memorandum argues "that this is already done by the Incorporated Secretaries' Association and the various other Institutes and Societies."

The National Council of Women are apparently unaware that the year's practical ward work—which alone can fit a probationer to sit for the Preliminary Examination of the G. N. C.—is absolutely indispensable in the training of a Nurse; and the Committee directed that an expression of opinion to this effect should be sent to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women, together with an expression of opinion "that the Council should consult the affiliated professional organisations on matters affecting their professional education and status."

Report of the Hon. Treasurer.

Miss M. Breay presented a short financial statement, which was considered and approved.

Miss Florence Nightingale's Birthday Anniversary.

The President reported that she had been invited by Colonel Percy W. Weidner, President, and Miss Georgia Bryton, Founder of the Florence Nightingale Institute of Honorables, Los Angeles, California, with their representatives in England, to make arrangements to lay a wreath sent from U.S.A. at the base of the statue of Miss Nightingale on 12th May, her 111th Birthday Anniversary, and suggested that officers of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain should take part in the ceremony.

It was agreed that the President, Miss M. Breay, Miss S. A. Villiers, Miss Sparshott, Miss Helen Dey and Miss A. M. Bushby should represent the National Council of Nurses on this occasion.

The Meeting then terminated.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

At a meeting of the Matrons' Council held at 194, Queen's Gate on Saturday, April 25th, the resignation of Miss H. L. Pearse, who has held office as President, since the lamented death of Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., was received with very sincere regret. Miss Pearse has now retired from the active practice of her profession, which she served so well for so many years, and lives in the country, and is strongly of opinion that high office in the Nurses' Organisations might be held by the younger generation, and that they should carry on the arduous work performed by pioneers in the past.

A very hearty vote of thanks for her past services was accorded to Miss Pearse, who promised continuance of personal interest in the Matrons' Council, as far as possible.

On the proposal of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who helped, together with Miss Isla Stewart, to found the Matrons' Council in 1893, Miss Mary S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Matron of

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., was nominated to fill the vacancy, Miss Cochrane having kindly consented to act, if elected.

The meeting unanimously elected Miss Cochrane, and expressed its pleasure in so doing.

Miss Kathleen Smith, R.R.C., resigned the position of Hon. Secretary, owing to lack of time for further service, and after a vote of thanks had been unanimously passed, to be conveyed to Miss Smith, discussion took place as to some reorganisation of duties.

In the early and strenuous days of the Matrons' Council the offices of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer were combined, and Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., was urged to accept the dual office should the Constitution be altered to this effect.

There are now seven Associations of Matrons—all federated together in the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and all doing excellent work in their special sections for the nursing profession as a whole.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING which gave publicity to the pioneer Matrons' Council so many years ago, offers its congratulations and thanks to Miss Cochrane, who, with her usual modesty, writes: "Very many thanks for your kind letter telling me of the decision of the Matrons' Council. I feel it is a very great honour, but I doubt my ability to follow such splendid women as Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Heather-Bigg, and Miss Pearse. However, I will do my best to follow in their footsteps, and carry on their ideals."

In this spirit all indeed is well.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION

The third Annual Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association was held at the Sanatorium, Cambridge, on Saturday, May 2nd, by kind invitation of Miss Milne Mitchell, Matron.

On arriving at the Sanatorium, the members were received by Miss Mitchell, and a delicious lunch was served.

Afterwards the visitors were conducted round the wards, which were surrounded by grass, and pine and birch trees. Beds of spring flowers, pansies and forget-me-nots added to the natural beauty.

The wards are provided with balconies, for sun treatment in the open air.

The ward stoves are unique, the chimneys only needing attention once in *five years*. It was specially noted that coal was served to each ward through a trap in the wall, the bunkers being outside, thus obviating the use of coal buckets and consequent dust. The medicine and linen cupboards were also a source of admiration for their ample accommodation and structure.

At the meeting, at which the President (Miss S. A. Villiers) was in the chair, a very satisfactory Annual Report was presented by the Hon. Secretary (Miss Dorothea Webb) and the Hon. Treasurer (Miss Stewart Bryson), who was able to show a balance of £34 12s. 7d. in hand. The report was adopted.

Miss Villiers (the President) did not seek re-election, and Miss J. Thornton Ruddy, M.B.C.N. (Matron of the High Grove Sanatorium, East Grinstead), was elected as her successor. Miss Dorothea Webb and Miss Stewart Bryson were re-elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

A very warm vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Villiers for her work in founding the Association, and her keen interest in this particularly important branch of nursing.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Mitchell, who, in addition to her generous hospitality, had secured the services of two ladies as escorts for a tour of some of the Colleges.

Before the members dispersed tea was served in the Matron's personal quarters, a nook of antique treasures.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)