

tion to divide it into three parts. Her early days, her professional career, the autumn of her life, but I find I am not capable of coping with the second part, as both our public careers separated for so many years.

"I hope someone who knew her and loved her will be able to deal with that, and leave her justly included among the pioneers of the past. Through you I will send to her friends sketches of the years in Chili. . . .

"Accept my hearty greetings for 1931. All success to your noble profession, and to the 'Young Brigade' that is doing so splendidly in the interminable war against human misery."

Miss Lina Mollett is a poetess of high merit, and we can assure our readers they will greatly enjoy her appreciation of our "Mollitino," when it appears.

The Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing met recently by kind invitation of Lord and Lady Forres, at 70, Grosvenor Street. Sir William Hale-White presided, and Lord Forres, Sir Henry Streatfeild and many members of the Council were present, together with Miss A. M. Peterkin (General Superintendent), Miss A. C. Lowe (Secretary), Miss G. H. Vaughan (Nursing Superintendent for England).

Sir Harold Boulton and Sir William Hale-White were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Council for the ensuing year. Lady Georgiana Mure, Mrs. Bruce Richmond, Mrs. John Whitaker, Lord Aberdare, and Mr. D. F. Pennant were re-elected Honorary Secretaries; and Colonel F. W. Pixley, Mr. A. J. Hugh Smith, and Mr. Arthur Anderson were elected Honorary Treasurers.

The report for the year 1930 was approved for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen, as Patron of the Institute, and an interesting report was received from the Executive Committee on the work since the last meeting of the Council.

A great deal of time had been devoted to consideration of the Federated Superannuation Scheme for Nurses and Hospital Officers, and Conferences of the affiliated Nursing Associations were being held in different parts of the country to explain how this scheme would affect the Nursing Associations and Queen's Nurses. The policy of the Institute was to advise Associations, if they did not feel able to join the scheme as participating Institutions, they should be willing to engage nurses who were in the Scheme and continue the payment of the employer's share of the premium and should also be prepared to pay the employer's share of the premium for any nurses already in their employment who wished to join the Scheme. The Institute itself was adopting this method of dealing with nurses who applied for training as Queen's Nurses.

Six scholarships have been awarded to Queen's Nurses to enable them to take the necessary training for the Health Visitor's Certificate under the scheme approved at the last meeting of the Council.

The general work throughout the country showed most satisfactory progress. Reports had been received by the Committee on the inspection of 727 districts in England employing 1,457 nurses and on 105 districts in Wales employing 140 nurses. Reports had also been received on the work of 33 County Nursing Associations

in England and Wales. The names of 342 nurses had been placed on the Roll of Queen's Nurses since July.

The Statements of Account and Balance Sheet for 1930 were received, and the Council was gratified to note that the £10,199 16s. 8d. raised by the National Gardens Scheme had enabled the Institute to close the year 1930 with a small balance in hand on the general funds.

We have received from Miss G. E. Copeman, Chairman of the Nurses' Fund for Nurses and Matron of the Paddington Infirmary, a letter concerning the Fund to which we referred last month, together with the sixth Annual Report, and the Balance Sheet for 1930. Almost all the work, Miss Copeman says is voluntary. Any one who can help to bring a degree of comfort into the lives of necessitous nurses is doing a good work, but sooner or later we hope that all Registered Nurses will contribute to an insurance scheme in their working days. It is the only self-respecting way of securing a sufficiency for old age.

We recently drew attention to the memorial to the late Miss K. V. Macintyre, for twenty-six years Matron of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, which is to take the form of a stained glass window in the chapel of the Infirmary.

Past and present members of the nursing staff and personal friends, who have not already subscribed, may be glad to know that the subscription list is still open, and donations may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Miss F. M. Graham, 127, Mesnes Road, Wigan.

Wide publicity has been given in the Press to the sympathetic strike of the nursing staff of the North Riding Infirmary, Middlesbrough, as a protest against the dismissal of their Matron, Miss Nellie Stringer. Some weeks ago Miss Stringer was asked to resign but refused on the ground that she had had no opportunity of replying to allegations made against her. She then received a letter of dismissal giving her three months' salary in lieu of notice, and asking her to make arrangements for her immediate departure.

The Nursing Staff demanded a public enquiry into Miss Stringer's dismissal and a special meeting of the Court of Governors: if this was not granted they stated that they would come out on strike, which they actually did, but having made their protest and arrangements having been made for substitutes, they asked to be permitted to return to duty, and were allowed to do so. In this they were in our opinion well advised, as the strike method is not one which nurses whose work is amongst sentient and sick human beings, not amongst inanimate matter, should ever adopt. Two principal points emerge out of this case—firstly, that every nurse has a right to be informed of the grounds of her dismissal, and to be heard in her own defence, and secondly, that nurses should enter into a contract legally binding between them and their employers. Of course a committee has absolute right to terminate an appointment under just conditions, but not without informing the employee of the charges against her, and affording her an opportunity of meeting them. We have heard of the indefensible action of Committees towards their Matrons in this relation on several recent occasions.

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