

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain was held on Saturday, November 5th, 1932, at 3 p.m. at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

The President, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., was in the Chair and there was a good attendance of members.

The Minutes and Secretary's Report having been read, Miss Muriel gave a very interesting account of the Conference of the National Council of Women, held at Norwich in October, which she attended as delegate.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick expressed dissatisfaction at an Emergency Resolution dealing with Disarmament, which she considered of a controversial nature, having been placed on the Agenda, and proposed a resolution, which was seconded by Miss Bushby, and carried.

The resolution was as follows:—

"This meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain desires to express its disapproval of Emergency Resolutions containing controversial matter, being placed upon the Agenda of the National Council of Women."

The President then gave a very interesting address on *The Lancet Commission on Nursing*.

Miss Cochrane said that, in her opinion, the report was calculated to give young nurses an inflated idea of themselves and their work; that if too much luxury and too many privileges were granted during a probationer's training the result would be disappointment when the nurse proceeded to her work, as the life of a nurse must always entail a certain amount of sacrifice. Miss Cochrane considered that the report gave too much emphasis to the material side of a nurse's training, whereas the really successful nurse should be prepared to give more than she received. Miss Cochrane then dealt with the proposal to divide the preliminary examination, and asked whether the time spent in Schools studying certain subjects would be expected to count as part of the nurse's training? Who would be responsible for choosing the probationers after they had been partly examined?

She felt there was great danger in handing over part of the nurse's education to an outside body who would be empowered to grant a certificate exempting her from part of an examination.

This might prove the beginning of the destruction of the one portal entrance to the profession which we had worked so strenuously to secure.

After some discussion a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Cochrane for her very interesting address and the following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and carried unanimously:—

"The Matrons' Council of Great Britain in general meeting assembled unanimously expressed their approval of the reply sent by the General Nursing Council to the College of Nursing on the proposal to divide the preliminary examination."

This concluded the business part of the meeting and the members afterwards enjoyed general social intercourse while partaking of the appetising tea which is always provided at the Royal British Nurses' Association.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Infectious Hospital Matrons' Association was held at the Royal British Nurses' Association's Club, 194, Queen's Gate, on Thursday, November 24th. Miss Ruddy presided. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The action of the Hon. Secretary regarding nominations to the National Council of Nurses was approved, *i.e.*, President: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; Vice-President: Miss Musson; Directors: Miss Macdonald

and Miss Allbutt. We are pleased to report that our nominees were elected. Thirteen apologies for absence were received.

The Executive Committee brought forward a motion that this Association and another should meet on the same date in order to procure a better attendance and to conserve as far as possible the Members' time. The President gave an account of the meeting of the National Council of Nurses (held at the British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, on November 23rd), with special reference to the discussion which had taken place on the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation. It was agreed to give all possible support to the movement.

Allusion was made to a letter which had appeared recently in a section of the Press disparaging the conditions under which nurses work in Fever Hospitals. The unanimous opinion held was that its statements were unwarranted as the nurses in Fever Hospitals now enjoy many privileges, social and otherwise, and it was considered that the letter under discussion was misleading and calculated to deter women from entering this very important branch of nursing. After discussion of this and other matters, tea was served, and the Members apparently enjoyed greatly the opportunity for meeting and discussing personally their mutual interests.

THE NIGHTINGALE FELLOWSHIP.

The First Nurses Nightingale Scholarship.

The Annual Meeting of the Nightingale Fellowship was held in the Governors' Hall, at St. Thomas's Hospital, on Saturday, November 26th, the President, Miss Alicia Lloyd-Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., was in the Chair.

After the Business Meeting, which was largely attended, had terminated, Dame Maud McCarthy delivered a most able and interesting address on "The Army Nursing Service in connection with the Army Nursing Service in France, with special reference to mobilisation during the Great War," of which she was Matron-in-Chief. It was a story of splendid self-sacrifice, courage and skill, and will be published, let us hope, *in extenso* in *The Nightingale Fellowship Journal*.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, who was present, thanked Dame Maud, not only for her address, but also for her invaluable services to the sick and wounded in the Great War overseas.

The Florence Nightingale Foundation.

Sir Arthur Stanley then spoke on the proposed International Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, and reported progress to date, proving that support for the Memorial had been warmly approved by the League of Red Cross Societies which was helping to provide scholarships for the interim year from July, 1933-1934, and was in touch with the International Council of Nurses, whose united efforts, it was hoped, would bring the proposed scheme to fruition in the near future. Miss Lloyd-Still then reported, amidst applause, that the Nightingale Fellowship had decided at that Meeting to finance a Nightingale Scholarship of £250.

On rising to report the need of endowed scholarships to carry on the fine work in London of the International Students' Courses centred at 15, Manchester Square, for the interim period, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick congratulated the Nightingale Fellowship on being the first Nurses' Organisation to give a Scholarship; as it had the honour to be associated with her name, the action of the Fellowship proved its love and loyalty. Mrs. Fenwick reminded the audience that their President had been nominated for the position of President of the International Council of Nurses, to be elected in Paris next year, not only by her own people associated in our National Council of Nurses, but also by

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