

OUR NEW COUNCILLORS.

MRS. MABEL C. LEDIARD, S.R.N., R.M.N.

It is very necessary that new blood should flow in the governing body of progressive organisations, and the Constitution of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., makes this compulsory.

Every year two Fellows and one Member are elected to serve on the Council of eleven Registered Nurses for three years—the laity not being eligible for service—and we have been very fortunate this year in securing the expert services of Mrs. Mabel C. Lediard, Matron of Middlesex Colony for Mental Defectives, Shenley, Herts., a charge of 1,200 beds.

In glancing over the nursing career of Mrs. Lediard, we marvel that it has been possible to endure so strenuous a career and attain such proficiency in so doing, and when we realise also that she has kept in active touch with her profession in a public capacity, we marvel the more; but if you are a physiognomist, look at her strong, serene and smiling face, presented on this page, and the mystery is solved!

Nursing Career.

Mrs. Mabel C. Lediard, S.R.N., R.M.N.

Mrs. Lediard started Mental Nursing in 1913 and obtained the R.M.P.A. Certificate at Holloway Sanatorium in 1917.

She then joined the London County Council and served in their mental hospitals for 10 years at Hanwell as nurse. She then had leave of absence for three years for General Training at West London Hospital, Hammersmith, 1923–1926.

She returned to Hanwell and was promoted to Horton as head nurse in charge of a section of the hospital: Admission ward, private villa, two wards and the section for treatment of general paralysis of the insane.

She was promoted from Horton to Bexley as Second Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor. From Bexley she joined the Middlesex County Council, 1929, at Springfield Mental Hospital, rising to Matron at a branch of Springfield at New Malden, 260 beds; from there she was promoted to Matron at her present post at Middlesex Colony for Mental Defectives, 1,200 beds, in 1934.

Professional Qualifications.

Mrs. Lediard holds the following certificates:
R.M.P.A. Certificate for Mental Nursing, 1917; State Registered for Mental Nursing, 1923.
State Registered for General Nursing, 1926.

Sister Tutor Certificate from Battersea Polytechnic, 1931.
Diploma of Nursing, London University, 1931.
Bacteriology and Elementary Science from Chelsea Polytechnic, 1931.

Invalid Cookery, from Chelsea Polytechnic, 1924.
West London Hospital Certificate, General Nursing, 1923–1926.

Red Cross and St. John Chemical Warfare Certificate, 1937.

She has been an Examiner for the General Nursing Council for England and Wales since 1930.

Mrs. Lediard was also elected President of the Mental Nurses' League when it was active before the War. Since

the War it has been unable to hold the meetings, as the Secretary and Treasurer are called up and travelling has been so difficult.

Mrs. Lediard has also rendered much public service to the profession, and as a constituent of the late Sir Francis Fremantle, a reactionary on nursing politics, he was left in no doubt that at least an expert disagreed with his de-grading policy in nursing standards.

It is indeed fortunate in these times of nursing suppression that we still have women of strong character and generous impulse to support the claims of efficiency in the care of the sick. So long as women of generous and self-sacrificing instincts have the courage to support the Registered Nurse, the depreciation of her detractors will fail to deprive the public and our "Lion Hearts" of her invaluable services.

Mrs. Lediard is, of course, deeply interested in the professional education and efficiency of mental nurses, realising, as she does, the marvellous results of their knowledge and skill with mentally unbalanced patients.



MRS. MABEL C. LEDIARD, S.R.N., R.M.N.

A new Member of Council, British College of Nurses, Ltd.

MORE CONTROL.

As we go to press the London Branch of the Royal College of Nursing is holding an open meeting for mental nurses at their headquarters to discuss the question of their organisation. Mental nurses attending wish to know: Is further organisation necessary; and, if so, what should be its aim?

Many do not wish to be controlled by the Royal College of Nursing, which at any moment might de-grade their standards as they have done those of the State Registered Nurse.

Mr. George Gibson has the male mental nurses well in hand, and the women should demand self-government.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)