

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THE MEETING OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held in the Bearsted Theatre of the London Hospital (by kind invitation of the Chairman, Sir John Mann, Bart.), on Friday, November 30th, 1945, at 2 p.m., when a representative assembly of delegates were present.

The President, Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., was in the Chair, and the Agenda was signed by Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Hon. Secretary. The draft of the reconstitution of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was considered clause by clause, much of which was agreed.

Certain recommendations were referred for reconsideration and will presumably be approved later.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder and Hon. President, reminded the meeting that by a majority the constituent societies had decided not to hold meetings during the war, but that each year accounts had been audited and submitted to every subscribing organisation, that £1,500 had been handed over to the new Treasurer mostly allocated for various funds.

Mrs. Fenwick proposed a vote of thanks be sent to the American Nurses' Association for helping to finance the International Council of Nurses during the war.

This was agreed with acclamation.

The delegates were most hospitably entertained to a delicious tea—the House Governor being present—and sincere regrets were expressed at the absence of the Matron (Miss Clare Alexander) owing to illness.

The Sisters' warm welcome to the delegates maintained the proverbial reputation of the great London Hospital for courtesy to all who are privileged to enter, and pass through, its benevolent portals.

METROPOLITAN NURSING SCHOOLS APPOINT NEW MATRONS.

When our last monthly issue went to press, the nursing departments of several London hospitals were still superintended by matrons of long experience, whose term of office had become a professional custom which we failed to realise might terminate, and, as it seems in the twinkling of an eye, three posts were vacant—two of which are already filled, St. Thomas's Hospital, to which the Nightingale School of Nursing is attached, and Guy's Hospital.

Never for years has such a change occurred, and those of us who have been accustomed to various personalities now realise it somewhat an effort to face the inevitable changes which, no doubt, will take place.

MISS D. M. SMITH, O.B.E., S.R.N.

The first surprise was the application of Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Matron of Middlesex Hospital, after 15 years' superintendence there, for the matronship of Guy's Hospital, where she was trained from 1916 to 1919, to succeed Miss E. E. P. MacManus, O.B.E.

Miss Smith is Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, a post under the Nurses' Act, 1943, which few of us would wish to administer now

that the honourable status formerly enjoyed by Registered Nurses has been de-graded by association with the Assistant Nurses' Roll, which has recognised untrained nurses, and for whose organisation, should there be a deficit, the fees of the Registered Nurses can and have been expended, a totally unjustifiable provision.

MISS E. E. P. MACMANUS, O.B.E., S.R.N.

Miss MacManus, who has been Matron of Guy's Hospital since 1927, will, on her retirement, find a wide field of nursing progress and organisation awaiting consideration through the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and as one of its Hon. Officers, will, we hope, help to build up a strong power for the maintenance of just conditions for the Registered Nurse, and thus secure the safety of the sick.

MISS G. V. L. HILLYERS, O.B.E., S.R.N.

The departure of Miss G. V. L. Hillyers from St. Thomas's Hospital undoubtedly brings to an end an era which was inaugurated by the late Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C.; as these ladies worked in harmony for a quarter of a century.

Miss Hillyers entered the Nightingale Training School in 1914, and held a number of appointments. She gained professional experience as Sister Tutor, Diploma, King's College of Social and Domestic Science, and the Diploma of Nursing, University of London. She was Sister-in-Charge of the Preliminary Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1924.

On the resignation of Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, she was elected Matron in 1938. Her war work as a member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Committee has been of great value, and recently elected an Hon. Officer of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the Profession of Nursing will have the benefit of her valuable professional experience at home and abroad.

MISS MARGARET JANE SMYTH, S.R.N.

The appointment of Miss Margaret Jane Smyth, S.R.N., to succeed Miss Hillyers as Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital and Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, recognises a most varied professional experience.

Miss Smyth entered the Nightingale Training School in 1922, and gained the Honour Certificate and Gold Medal. She was Sister in the Wards, the Mothercraft Department, and the Gynaecological Out-patient Department; Matron at St. Thomas's Hospital Babies' Dietetic Hostel; Principal of St. Christopher's Nursery Training College, Tunbridge Wells; Assistant Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, and Acting Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital at Hydestile, Godalming, the country branch, having 334 beds.

Miss Smyth holds the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and School Nurses, and the Certificate of Maternity and Child Welfare.

No doubt Miss M. J. Smyth will find her new appointment an absorbing one, as St. Thomas's Hospital suffered serious damage during the war and much detailed organisation will now be necessary. Indeed, several new departments are already projected, a new Children's Ward amongst them.

One just longs to be 24 again, the year 1881, and wondrous years of absorbing work before one! !

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