

consideration how these vacancies could be filled, especially that of the First Directress.

At a preliminary meeting for making arrangements for the annual, Mrs. Bronson stated that she had felt that the success of the institution required the most influential name that could be procured in Ottawa, and it afforded her much pleasure to state to the ladies present that the consent of Lady Macdonald to fill that office had been obtained. Lady Macdonald was, therefore, unanimously elected at the Annual Meeting, held on January 15th, 1868. Mrs. J. Thorburn was elected Rec. Sec., and Mrs. W. Smillie, Treasurer.

The break in our ranks, incident upon the disagreement about the purchase of the Webster property, had been severely felt by the Board, especially as those leaving were among the founders and earliest friends of the institution. It was a crisis in the affairs of the Home, and but for the tact, wisdom, and fine spirit of the Second Directress, Mrs. Bronson, might have resulted disastrously; but the crisis was safely passed, and with the new building, new matron, and increased number of inmates, came increased energy.

Lady Macdonald took her seat for the first time at the regular monthly meeting in February, 1868, and for seven years, amid all the calls on her time, and notwithstanding all the social engagements belonging to her position as wife of the Premier of Canada, she carried on, with rare ability and a whole-hearted energy, so characteristic of her, the administration of the affairs of this institution.

Nothing requiring special notice occurred during the next six years. By great economy, by renting of lecture hall and other rooms, by various enter-