

Miss Noyes writes: "Graduates of the School are found scattered throughout the Near East, and wherever they go they are carrying high the torch lighted by Florence Nightingale in the barracks at Scutari. As her true disciples they are penetrating the dark places of that great territory whose people from time immemorial have been without the kind of nursing care that only well trained nurses can give."

### PIONEER NURSING IN KENTUCKY.

Many of our readers know charming Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, R.N., who came to England a few years ago to be trained as a midwife, and who after examination obtained the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Mrs. Breckinridge did this with a purpose. She has now returned to Kentucky and has, with the help of friends, established the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies, of which she is Director.

This fine pioneer work deals with providing skilled help in outlying and mountainous districts for mothers and babies often far from medical, nursing and midwifery care. Living in very primitive conditions, the Committee realise that our district midwifery schemes are invaluable and are prepared to engage suitable nurses from England. The terms as advertised in this JOURNAL are, salary 150 dollars a month with housing, but no other maintenance, and a horse and its upkeep, and a month's vacation a year. Immigration laws in U.S.A. do not, as a rule, allow passage and expenses to be paid to New York.

We are, however, pleased to say that we have just received the following letter from Mrs. Breckinridge:—

"I have been thinking that perhaps one difficulty confronting the nurses who were coming over was the question of our not being able to pay their passage. I have at last succeeded, after trying for several months, in getting a written statement from the Department of Labour, Bureau of Immigration, stating that although organisations are not allowed to import and pay the passage of aliens under general conditions, that exceptions are made in the case of certain professional and other classes and that this exceptional group includes professional nurses.

"It will therefore be possible for us to pay the passage of nurses coming over to America, and we will gladly do so. One hundred and fifty dollars (about £30) would meet the payment of passage and all incidentals on a good one cabin boat, and of course we pay the way from New York to Kentucky. We will, however, pay only half-salary for the first two months the nurse is with us, namely, seventy-five dollars instead of a hundred and fifty dollars, but this will doubly cover the nurse's living expenses during that time.

"It comes to the same thing, so far as we are concerned, but it is so much more convenient for the nurse. It takes nearly two months for a nurse to get accustomed to our country, and the horse-back riding, and the isolated trails before she can take over full responsibility for her work."

This is a delightful field for pioneers—thoroughly trained nurse-midwives, with grit, and who are not afraid of a horse, and such nurses can apply to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at 39, Portland Place, London, for an interview.

An interesting article on this work appeared in our November issue on page 284.

### THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, January 28th, at 3 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss H. L. Pearse, Vice-Presidents; Miss Mary G. Allbutt, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Mrs. Strong, Miss S. A. Villiers, Fellows; and Miss E. J. Haswell, Member.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., the Minutes were confirmed.

#### Correspondence.

A number of interesting letters were read and considered.

#### Legal Protection.

In considering correspondence, the President drew the attention of the Council to the number of cases asking for advice, which proved the great need of just contracts between employers and nurses, and straightforward dealing in cases of complaint between Committees and the members of their nursing staffs, including the higher officials. One letter of thanks to the Council—where legal attendance at a meeting had been agreed—stated that matters had been settled quite amicably to the satisfaction of the Fellow of the College. From other correspondence Fellows were advised that it was inadvisable that any legal action should be taken.

#### Reduction of Subscription.

In reply to a Fellow working on the Continent holding the valuable Diploma of the College—who wished the subscription reduced, as she was unable to avail herself of the Club or College—it was agreed to inform the writer that the Council did not propose to suggest any alteration in the Constitution for this purpose, as it was felt that when working abroad the prestige of Fellowship was a great asset to those holding the Diploma, and that every member received, as a great benefit, a free copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. The Council agreed with Miss Villiers that the College was not founded for material benefit alone, but to encourage solidarity for the benefit of the whole profession.

#### The Coming of Canadian Fellows.

The Council learned with pleasure that the two Canadian Fellows coming to England to avail themselves, through the College, of experience in Administrative and Health work in England, would arrive in February and arrangements for their comfort were being made. Thanks to Miss Cochrane, Miss Allbutt and Miss Macaulay, a variety of work in administrative departments would be available, and thanks to Miss H. L. Pearse and a Medical Officer of Health, Public Health experience would also be arranged of a useful character.

#### Private Nursing Conference.

Miss Beatrice Treasure expressed thanks for the action of the Council consequent upon her recent communication *re* Private Nursing, and for deciding to convene a Conference on the subject.

The Council decided to hold the Conference in the Large Hall of the College on March 22nd next, and to

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