

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on December 21st, 1929, at 2 p.m. The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the Chair, and the following Members were present: Miss S. A. Villiers, Vice-President; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss E. Kennedy, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*; Miss E. J. Haswell and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C., *Members*.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

Retention of Criminals on the State Register of Nurses.

Acting on the decision of the last Council Meeting, the President reported that wide publicity had been given to the Resolution protesting against the retention of the names of thieves on the State Register of Nurses.

The Registrar of the General Nursing Council having informed the Secretary of the College that the case of the nurse in question (condemned in a Court of Law for theft) had been deferred for judgment for twelve months, and was *sub judice*, and therefore the Resolution of protest could not be placed before the G.N.C.; a copy of the Resolution had been sent with a covering letter to all members of the General Nursing Council individually at their home addresses, stating that the Council of the College considered all Registered Nurses had a right to address their Governing Body, so that members might realise the strong feeling against the retention of criminals on the Register of Nurses by the General Nursing Council.

The Resolution had also been forwarded to the Minister of Health, the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, all medical Members of Parliament, the General Medical Council, and to the Editors of the *Lancet*, the *British Medical Journal*, to the leading daily papers, and to eminent persons interested in law and equity.

A great amount of correspondence had ensued, and it was satisfactory to report that many medical Members of Parliament and others expressed sympathy with the principles of the Resolution, realising as they did the danger to the sick public of the "covering" of criminals by the General Nursing Council.

Correspondence.

Letters from Miss M. Breay (Vice-President), Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C. (Fellow), and Miss A. M. Bright, expressing regret at inability to attend.

1. Letter from Miss Norah E. Green (General Secretary, National Council of Women of Great Britain), with enclosures.

2. Letter from Miss M. S. Marshall (Glasgow), *re* Correspondence Classes, referred to the Education Committee.

3. Letter from Miss A. Garstang, *re* County Meetings.

4. Letter from Miss W. Mullaney (Kent Town, South Australia), accepting nomination as Local Consul.

5. Letters from a Fellow abroad, asking for financial help. The Council granted £5.

6. Letters from two Members, asking for legal advice. These requests had been satisfactorily dealt with. Letters of thanks from same.

7. Letter from a Fellow in New South Wales, *re* nursing conditions. Apparently there is very little nursing work for English trained nurses at present, either in New South Wales or in New Zealand. This correspondent does not consider the terms of reciprocity for Registration between England and New South Wales are fair, as private hospitals and nursing homes are counted as training schools in parts of Australia, so that, by reciprocity, nurses trained and registered in the Commonwealth have undue advantage over English nurses, where nursing homes are not accepted as training schools qualifying for registration.

8. Interesting letter from a Fellow working in France, *re* nursing conditions in Paris. In the hospital in which she is nursing most very ill patients have day and night specials, for which they have to pay £1 for each nurse. Danes, Swedes, Norwegians and Russians are in training. The English nurses are not particularly liked by American nurses. They complain that we take such small fees that we make it difficult for them on the Continent; also they dislike our "professionalism." "It is a change to see other people's ways."

9. Letters of thanks from a Member for a grant of £5. From Miss E. Macintyre, for congratulations on her promotion to Sister Tutor at Fulham Hospital, Hammersmith.

From Miss S. Edwards, for congratulations on her promotion to Third Assistant Matron, Fulham Hospital, Hammersmith.

Many letters of thanks for Diplomas and of appreciation of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, especially from those living abroad.

10. Letter from Mrs. How Martyn, asking for the Council's help in support of the movement for Birth Control.

Election of Fellows and Members.

The applications received were all approved, subject to the correction of one form.

Financial Statement.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement. £77 14s. had been received during the month.

Miss Graham's Report.

Miss Graham reported that Coaching Classes had been held in the following subjects; Surgery, Surgical Nursing, Gynæcology, Gynæcological Nursing, Medicine and Medical Nursing, and General Nursing. There had been some sickness, which prevented attendance at classes, but pupils would go up for examination in various subjects. Miss Graham was thanked for her successful teaching and Report.

It was reported that Miss Edith M. Foulkes Pritchard, who had been given a grant to study at King's College, had passed first in Business Affairs and well in other subjects.

The Secretary's Report.

The Secretary's Report stated that the Autumn Session of Lectures had terminated; that 206 communications had been received and 349 communications

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