

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Sixty-first meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, December 19th, at 2.15 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and all the members of the Council were present.

BUSINESS ARISING.

THE NEED OF FEMALE ATTENDANTS IN PUBLIC MORTUARIES.

Letter from the Town Clerk, Woolwich, acknowledging a letter from the Council *re* the decision of the Woolwich Town Council to take no action concerning the necessity for Female attendants in Public Mortuaries.

Letter from Town Clerk, Norwich, in which he writes: "In Norwich it is usual for relatives to send two women to perform the usual ablutions, or failing this, the undertaker provides two women for the purpose."

WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THE NURSING PROFESSION.

In reply to the President's letter (a) Mrs. Ida Copeland states: "Any matters connected with the Nursing Profession have my very greatest interest and sympathy"; (b) Thanks for communication from the Duchess of Atholl and Miss Megan Lloyd-George.

Letters of thanks from Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C. for nomination and subsequent election as a Vice-President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

From Miss B. Kent for letter of sympathy from the Council *re* the death of Miss A. E. Hulme.

Particulars of revised Regulations *re* Midwife-Teachers' Examination.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Council considered a large amount of correspondence.

1. Letter from Miss M. Davy *re* an application from Miss Edna K. Adams for a Midwifery Grant. Referred to the Education Committee for report.

2. Letter from Miss E. M. Parfitt *re* Coaching Classes.

It was reported that a very large number of candidates had failed to pass the recent examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The matter was referred to the Education Committee for report.

THE L.C.C. STATEMENT ON SALARIES AND WAGES.

3. Letter from the Clerk, London County Council, stating that "having regard to the present economic situation the Council has under consideration the question of making temporary abatements in the salaries and wages of the staff in its employ . . . I am directed to give you this preliminary intimation that negotiations will shortly be initiated with those bodies who have a good claim to be consulted."

COUNTY AND COUNTY BOROUGH HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION *re* SALARIES ABATEMENT.

The following letter received by the Secretary was placed before the Council and considered.

14th December, 1931.

DEAR MADAM,

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of this Association the matter of salaries abatement was discussed.

As this is a most important issue, I was asked to say "in the event of being consulted *re* temporary reductions from salaries of Nursing Staffs of L.C.C. and County and County Borough Hospitals, will the British College of Nurses stress the following points put forward by the County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association.

1. That the abatement should be temporary and reviewed annually, with a view to returning to normal as soon as possible.

2. That abatement be made on salaries only, and *not* on emoluments.

3. That these abatements should not affect "pension rights" under Superannuation Scheme, whether (under Act) 1864, 1896, 1922, or L.C.C.

Thanking you in anticipation of any assistance that may be given.

I am, faithfully yours,
JOAN INGLIS,
Hon. Secretary.

The Council unanimously agreed to support the decisions of the County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association on all three counts.

WOMEN ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Agenda of the Annual Meeting, held on December 1st, of the Council for the representation of Women on the League of Nations was handed in.

A large number of Christmas greetings from various parts of the world were received with much pleasure.

THANKS FROM MISS SALLIE ROUND, F.B.C.N.

From All Saints Dispensary, Panvel, India, Miss Round writes: "I hardly know how to express my thanks for the generous gift that I received from the British College of Nurses last mail. I can only say that I shall do my best to see that every penny is wisely and well spent for the purpose for which it has been given, and that not only myself but many others will benefit too."

We start for Madras December 26th, (D.V.) and I think the Conference lasts four or five days. I shall return to Panvel for a short time and then make the final arrangements for going to the Leper Asylum at Diehpoli, Hyderabad State. I have been making enquiries and this is the best one in all India. While there I shall do my utmost to gain all the knowledge possible so that I can use it for the help of others and certainly to write something interesting for the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I wonder what we did before it came into existence? Will you kindly convey my grateful thanks to all who sanctioned the grant."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement: £78 13s. had been received in subscriptions since the last meeting.

SOCIAL SCHEMES.

POSTPONEMENT OF PAGEANT DINNER.

The President reported that she had considered the cost of the History of Nursing Dinner—which had been deferred in the autumn owing to the financial stress of the times—The Dinner could not be organised for less than £100 (the original Nursing Pageant had cost £600, and showed a balance of 2s. 6d.). The President invited discussion.

Miss M. S. Cochrane expressed the opinion that although the Pageant Dinner was of an educational character, she did not think its cost was justifiable at the present time.

Other members of the Council were in sympathy with this view and it was ultimately decided unanimously to postpone the Pageant Dinner indefinitely during the period of financial strain in the nursing profession—and throughout the country generally.

The President reminded the Council that the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain had decided at its recent annual meeting to take part in the discussion to promote the International Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, that this could not progress without intimate consultation with the National Associations of Nurses federated in the International Council of Nurses, and that international

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