

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The ninety-fourth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, December 15th, 1934, at 39, Portland Place, London, W., at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss I. Macdonald, Vice-Presidents; Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Fellows; Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss E. F. Eburah, Members.

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

Regrets for absence were received from Miss F. M. Campbell.

A message of regret was received from the Treasurer, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, that he was unable to be present at the Registration Birthday Party.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

General Nursing Council for England and Wales, *re* publication in the general press of the names of successful candidates in the Final State Examinations of the General Nursing Council. The President reported:—

(a) By the direction of the Council of the British College of Nurses the following letter was sent to the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales* :—

To the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

MADAM.—At a recent Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses the letter sent in reply to the Resolution adopted by my Council on September 22nd, inviting the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to consider the advisability of giving publicity to the results of the Final Examinations in the general press was read, and I was directed to convey to you the considered opinion of my Council :—

(1) That the motion adopted by the General Nursing Council on October 26th, that a communication from a body of Registered Nurses should be "laid on the table," is not only discourteous but inexpedient.

(2) That my Council considers the expenditure of £300, if necessary, to give publicity to the result of the Final State Examinations would be justified taking into consideration the fact that Registered Nurses provide the whole cost, upwards of £20,000 a year expended by the Council in conducting Examinations.

My Council hope, therefore, that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will, in the future, adopt a more sympathetic conduct of business in dealing with communications received from Registered Nurses, and also that it will take into consideration the advisability of direct expenditure in support of the status of the members of the Nursing Profession, thus following the established custom of a large number of educational bodies, including the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Council of Legal Education, the Law Society, the Royal College of Music, the various Universities, Colleges and Public Schools.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Secretary.

(b) Letter received from Miss G. E. Davies, Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, acknowledging letter received from the British College of Nurses.

DOMICILIARY NURSING SERVICES BILL.

As agreed by the Council at its last Meeting on November 17th, letters were sent to :—

(a) to Sir Gerald Hurst, K.C., M.P. ;

(b) to Captain Cunningham-Reid, D.F.C., M.P., inviting their support to the principle that the professional

* A reply to this letter appears in the report of the meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on page 16.

status of Registered Nurses should be protected in the provisions of the amended Domiciliary Nursing Services Bill, it was proposed to introduce into the House of Commons. The following reply had been received from Captain Cunningham-Reid :—

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

3rd December, 1934.

DEAR MISS STEWART BRYSON.—Thank you for your letter of the 27th November.

I am always most pleased to do whatever I can to safeguard the interests of the Nursing profession, and I will try and take an opportunity of seeing Sir Gerald Hurst with reference to the question of the professional status of Registered Nurses in connection with the Domiciliary Nursing Services Bill. Any Bill, however, which he might introduce this Session will make no progress, as the Government has decided to appropriate the time usually reserved for Private Members' legislation.

Yours truly,

A. CUNNINGHAM-REID.

Miss A. STEWART BRYSON, F.B.C.N.,
The British College of Nurses.

Letter from Miss Jessie Quick expressing grateful thanks to the Council for the Grant of £10 awarded to her to help towards her expenses in taking the Sister Tutor's Course and Examination. She has arranged to begin her training at the Battersea Polytechnic on January 14th, 1935.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Mrs. Strong of regret that distance prevents her from being present at the interesting ceremony of cutting the Registration Cake on December 15th, and expressing the hope that it will be a very happy gathering.

Sincere thanks from Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Bartleet for kind expressions of sympathy and for beautiful flowers, sent in memory of Miss F. M. Bartleet, A.R.R.C. The President in expressing deep regret of the loss the College had sustained by the death of Miss Bartleet, one of its earliest Fellows, asked the Council to show by standing, its sympathy. She also conveyed to Miss Bushby sincere sympathy in the loss of her dear companion and friend.

Letter from Miss J. Binnie, M.B.C.N., of thanks for beneficent grant of £35 to enable her to take the Central Midwives Board Course of Training and Examination.

Letter from Miss Hovenden expressing appreciation of the obituary notice published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of the late Miss Rosa E. Wallace.

Letters from Miss Bright Robinson and Miss M. A. D. Mitchell, offering gifts which were gratefully accepted.

Letter from Miss Ellen Webb of notification of her marriage to take place at All Souls' Church, Langham Place, on January 12th, and also from Miss A. Hallett that she was going to South Africa to be married. Letters of congratulation to be sent. Letter from Miss R. Stow of North Adelaide, expressing appreciation of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, stating :—"It is splendid to read of the wonderful work which is being done for the profession by the British College and Council. Congratulations and best wishes for 1935."

Several letters of appreciation of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Letter from Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary, I.C.N., *re* arrangement for issues of the I.C.N. Review for 1933-1934.

Letters from members out of work and suffering from illness and accidents. It was agreed that financial help should be offered.

Letters from two matron members who had resigned their posts owing to impossible conditions of service imposed in depriving them of rightful professional authority.

The President reported that these complaints were apparently on the increase, and the unjust conditions imposed could only result in the depreciation of nursing standards in hospitals which imposed them.

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