

It was announced recently in the House of Commons by the Minister of Health that the Rushcliffe Committee's Report on Nurses' Salaries was being drafted for publicity at an early date.

This has proved a much more difficult question than was anticipated, as the increased expenditure runs into thousands annually.

"OUR SISTER DORA."

On Saturday, January 23rd, the ceremony of commemorating the Birthday of the late "Sister Dora" took place at Walsall, and this year marked the 101st anniversary of her birth.

The town's tribute, the placing of a lovely wreath of flowers, was laid on her statue by the Mayoress (Miss Moira McShane), in her robes and chain of office; and that for the Walsall General Hospital by the Matron (Miss Swain).

Gathered round were a party of nurses from the General Hospital, with the Very Rev. Canon H. D. Yeo, and the House Governor (Mr. R. C. Millward); members of the local Red Cross detachment, Miss Hall (Superintendent), and Councillor A. E. Hurst (Hon. Secretary), representing the Victoria Nursing Institution.

In a short speech after the laying of the wreaths, the Mayoress said it was to her a privilege to be associated with that annual act of homage to the memory of Sister Dora, which she hoped would be continued for many years. Walsall people could never forget the noble work she did in the town.

Canon Yeo recalled that it was in 1859 that a meeting was held in Walsall to consider a letter which had been received from the Secretary of the Birmingham Hospital asking that Walsall should send them more money and fewer patients. It was then decided that the town must build a hospital of its own. Nothing, however, was done until 1863, when the cottage hospital was established in Bridge Street. Sister Dora came in 1865 and the hospital was removed to the present site.

The nursing staff at the Manor Hospital sent the Mayor a cheque for £6 15s. in lieu of the usual wreath, with the request that it should be spent on Walsall's prisoners of war in commemoration of Sister Dora's birthday. The covering letter expressed the feeling that it would be Sister Dora's desire to have the money spent on some such worthy and useful object, rather than on a floral tribute.

Gratitude is a lovely if somewhat rare virtue in these days, and we commend the loyalty of the people of Walsall to the world in general. We sincerely regret that we were unable to accept the invitation to be present at this year's ceremony.

Dora Pattison was a wonderful personality and the instinct of Walsall's workpeople to have her "cut in marble" was a wise one. "Our Sister Dora" will be an inspiration to them from generation to generation.

NEW MEDALS FOR GLASGOW NURSES.

Courage Rewarded.

Glasgow Health Sub-Committee has decided to recommend the Magistrates to confer Corporation Medals for Bravery on a number of nurses in Robroyston Hospital for rescuing patients at the recent fire in the hospital.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on Thursday, January 14th, at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair. Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

The President reported the absence and regret of Miss A. S. Bryson, Secretary, owing to an attack of influenza. The Council desired that a sincere expression of regret be conveyed to Miss Bryson, who had seldom been absent for the past ten years, and wished her a speedy recovery.

Correspondence.

A generous gift of £16 from Miss Isabel Macdonald's Calendar Fund for Christmas Cheer, for those whose circumstances were not too affluent was reported. The gifts had been greatly appreciated and the Council directed that a letter of thanks be conveyed to Miss Macdonald.

A letter from the Mayoress of Walsall, Miss Moira McShane, was reported inviting the President to be present at the annual celebration of the late Sister Dora's birthday, on January 16th. As this kind invitation could not be accepted this year, it was agreed to send flowers if there was time, with a letter of thanks to the Mayoress.

Legal Advice.

It was agreed on the advice of the Solicitor to sign and seal the Mandate from the Charity Commissioners in reference to the payment of dividends to the College.

Financial Statement.

The audited accounts from February to June, 1942, were presented, and it was agreed that they should be presented to a General Meeting of Fellows and Members to conform with the obligation that a meeting should be held before the expiration of 12 months after incorporation.

It was agreed to summon a General Meeting on Thursday, February 25th, at 2.30 p.m.

Election of Vice-President.

Owing to the recent resignation of Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., received with regret, the Council proceeded to elect as Vice-President, Miss Helena M. McLoughlin, F.B.C.N., a member of the Council who had recently retired, after very valuable service, from the Matronship of the East Ham Infectious Diseases Hospital. The opinion was expressed that it would be advantageous that the office of Vice-President should, at the present time, be held by a lady free from official duties, and thus able to take an active part in the work of the Council between meetings. Miss McLoughlin's experience as President of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, which she helped to found, her great charm and organising ability, and sound faith in professional self-Government, would, it was felt, be of great value to the British College of Nurses in future administration and development.

Miss McLoughlin, in accepting office, thanked the Council for the honour it had conferred upon her, and expressed her determination to do everything in her power to promote the interests of the College.

"A Demand for Justice for the State Registered Nurse."

The pamphlet in reply to the de-grading of professional standards advocated by the Royal College of Nursing was further considered, and it was agreed that it should be published at an early date.

The Meeting then terminated.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)