

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

The Fifth Ordinary General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Friday, December 13th, at 2.30 p.m. The Vice-President, Mrs. Thomas Barber, was in the Chair, and there was a fair attendance of Fellows and Members.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., read Prayers. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Report of the Council, together with the Agenda and Balance Sheet to June 30th, 1946, as follows, had been circulated to every Fellow and Member. They were taken as read and adopted.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945-1946.

In presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for the year 1945-1946, we have to record, with deep regret, the very serious accident which befell our revered President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, on June 22nd, resulting in a fractured Femur; she was admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on June 26th, 1946.

We are to be congratulated on our financial position. The Charity Commissioners hold an invested fund of approximately £100,000 nominal value, and pay the whole income therefrom, free of tax, to the College, which will enable the Council to organise educational and benevolent schemes for the benefit of Fellows and Members.

Additional investments in the name of the College are shown on the Balance Sheet at £862, which includes £600 3 per cent. Defence Bonds, £200 of which was purchased during this year, to provide funds either for the renewal of the existing lease on the College premises, or for the purpose of purchasing other premises, when the present lease expires in 1951.

The market price of these investments at June 30th, 1946, was approximately £1,407.

Invested Income of the College.

The College derives its income from the investments above referred to and the dividends from that source in 1946 amounted to £3,740. In addition, our members have contributed upwards of £596 as their annual subscriptions, halved as their incomes have been by taxation, so that with due economy in office expenditure, we may rely upon being able to benefit members according to their needs, both for educational advancement, economic security, and benevolent help. We may congratulate ourselves that the College is now incorporated and its income secured.

The fact remains that with our basic income we are placed in a position of security and independence which is only limited by the number of self-respecting Registered Nurses, who co-operate for the public welfare and their own security, and it is here necessary to emphasise the fact that unless groups of working women unite, as men do, it is inevitable that they will be exploited.

It is to be regretted that the normal activities of the College have had to be considerably curtailed owing to the continuance of War for upwards of five years, but hostilities having ceased, the Council looks forward to much more active work, both educational and economic, for the benefit of Fellows and Members during the coming year.

Retired Members of the Council.

This year the Council will lose by rotation the very valuable services of Mrs. M. B. Carmichael, S.R.N., S.C.M.,

Fellow, whose interest and generosity has been greatly appreciated; and Miss H. McLoughlin, S.R.N., Fellow, to whom our warm thanks are due for the unfailing support she has given in the interest of the College during her term of office, as a Fellow on the Council, and as Vice-President; and Miss M. C. Ping, S.R.N., S.C.M., Member, whose keen professional outlook has been much valued.

New Members of the Council.

The following nominations for Election have been received as Fellows: Miss G. M. Hardy, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.), Matron of the Surrey County Sanatorium, Milford, Surrey; and Miss L. Clark, S.R.N., Matron, Isolation Hospital, Hendon.

The experience of these ladies will, we feel sure, be invaluable in the deliberations of the Council.

The Council has met constantly and kept in active touch with members, and whilst responding to every demand, has administered the business of the College with economy.

The clerical and domestic staff have attended daily throughout the year, and performed their respective duties with admirable dispatch, for which the Council desires to place on record its admiration and gratitude.

War Damage Repairs to College Premises.

In reference to the serious damage by blast of the College building on February 18th-19th, 1944, by explosive bomb, First Aid repairs *only* have been done, and much work remains to be executed to complete the War Damage repairs of the College still necessary.

The delay in carrying out these repairs, due to the very serious shortage of skilled labour, has seriously curtailed the general activities of the College, and the Council is using every means in its power to expedite the repairs of the College building still required.

The Dr. Bedford Fenwick Memorial Founded.

The Council has founded an Educational Memorial in memory of the late Bedford Fenwick, Esq., M.D., who was the initiator of Professional Status for trained nurses, and through his untiring work in support of this principle, State Registration became an accomplished fact in 1919, when the Nurses' Bill for State Registration of Trained Nurses became law. He also made it possible by financial support to secure to nurses, during their long struggle for State Registration, a professional organ in the Press, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The College members have therefore organised a Nursing Scholarship in his name which will materialise next year, when the first Bedford Fenwick Scholar will attend the International Congress of Nurses to be held in Atlantic City, New York, U.S.A., in May, 1947.

Nursing Education.

The Government's drastic restrictions on courses of nursing education curtails full time higher facilities for members, thus available grants have not been utilised.

On an educational basis the Council has agreed to organise Travelling Grants for a limited number of members of the College to attend the International Congress of Nurses to be held in Atlantic City, in 1947.

Benevolent Grants.

A sum of £310 has been distributed in grants to members of the College from the Ethel Mary Fletcher Benevolent Fund; these grants have been made to old members whose incomes have been seriously depleted by war conditions and ill-health; 12 members are now receiving a grant of 10s. weekly from this Fund.

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