

## The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, January 27th, 1955, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. M. C. Barber, D.N.(Lond.), was in the Chair. Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The President reported that concerning the communications sent from the Council of this College to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging that something more should be done to increase the pensions of Nurses who retired before 1948—the Chancellor has replied:—

"Treasury Chambers,  
Great George Street, S.W.1.  
September 29th, 1954.

"Dear Madam,

"In reply to your letter of September 24th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer asks me to say that he will certainly bear your representations in mind.

"He is afraid, however, that while he has every sympathy with the Nurse Pensioners to whom you refer, in their present difficulties, there are unhappily many retired persons and others who have to live on small fixed incomes and he can hold out no hope that the Government will find it possible to single out the Nurses in question for specially favourable treatment."

The attention of the meeting was drawn to a publication in the Press, in which it was learned that Miss Irene Ward, M.P., appealed on this subject on behalf of retired teachers; and it was unanimously agreed that Nurses, as compared with teachers, are placed in very much more unfavourable financial conditions due to the very considerably smaller salaries formerly paid to Nurses.

Letters of very grateful thanks were reported for the welcome Christmas cheer received by elderly Nurses from the Council. As one writes, "for this kindness and generosity I feel quite overcome."

In a large amount of correspondence a letter was received from the Prime Minister, of thanks to the British College of Nurses, Ltd., for kind Greetings on his birthday.

Many communications received from at home and abroad, expressing appreciation of *The British Journal of Nursing*, were reported.

### Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership were received, and all were elected.

### Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was reported and adopted.

In considering educational activities, it was decided that arrangements be made for Lectures on Art and the Drama; that a coach trip to Westcliff-on-Sea be arranged for the Festival of Flowers, in May; a trip on Father Thames to Greenwich, and others. The Council therefore asks our Fellows and members to keep watch of notification in the *B.J.N.* of dates, etc.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on February 23rd.

The meeting then terminated.

We were very pleased to hear from Miss E. S. Johns, a very old friend from New Zealand.

She expresses keen appreciation of the *Journal* and is glad to know that the "ship of state" is still manned and progressing.

She listened in to the speeches on November 30th and as she heard the voice of Sir Winston Churchill, especially excerpts from his wartime speeches, she lived that time over again with a lump in her throat.

## A Walk Round Worcester Cathedral.

EXPLORING BRITAIN'S CATHEDRALS has a never ending fascination. It is in these, more than in any other groups of architecture, that the reflection of history can be found; they tell not only of the doings of Kings and Princes from time to time, but also of the character and skill of British craftsmen down the ages.

Worcester Cathedral is placed in a very beautiful setting. It stands on the high eastern bank of the Severn, overlooking the ivy-clad ruins of the old Monastic infirmary and its other outbuildings stretching down to the edge of the river.

On the north it is flanked by what was formerly the Bishop's Palace, separated from the busy streets of the City by the old burying ground laid out with grass and shrubs. On the south, between the Cathedral and the site of the ancient Castle, there is the College Green.

In College Green are the Canon's houses, and the picturesque Watergate that leads down to the Severn and the Cathedral Ferry.

Here also we find the Choir school with its Woodward Memorial Wing, also the library, the armoury, the boarding houses and class rooms of the ancient and famous Cathedral School.

The meadows on the eastern bank of the Severn are open and unbuilt upon, and are used for the Cathedral and Choir School's cricket and football grounds. Here one gets the finest views of the Cathedral and its surroundings.

The Nave of the Cathedral is in nine bays, each of 20 feet. The Choir and Lady Chapel have the same length as the Nave.

The plan of the Cathedral is simple; its external length is 415 feet, the central tower is 32 feet square and is 196 feet high to the top of the pinnacles.

On the south side of the Nave are the Cloisters, a square of 121 feet. On the east side of this is the circular Chapter House, entered from the Cloisters; on the south the Refectory; on the west were formerly the dormitory, the infirmary and its chapel and other Monastic buildings; of all these only ruins remain. The Library, rich in M.S.S., is over the south aisle of the Nave.

The Cathedral, viewed from without, has in general lost the appearance of age. A restoration, necessitated by the crumbling nature of much of the stone originally used, by unequal subsidence of foundations, and by insufficient care of the fabric during previous centuries, was carried out between the years 1857 and 1874.

It was a restoration on the greatest scale undertaken in modern times, costing over £100,000, and though there was an inevitable loss of some of the grace and "atmosphere" of antiquity the work as a whole is well done, with a true regard for the original lines.

An immense debt of gratitude is due to the Dean and Chapter of that date and to the memory of Mr. Perkins, the Cathedral architect at that time.

Entering by the North Porch and proceeding at once to the West end Nave one gets at this point the full architectural effect of the whole building.

Cathedrals should never be compared with one another. Each has its own charm, but no one will deny that Worcester Cathedral possesses internally a wonderful perfection of design, richness of colour, varied architectural effects and proof positive of the most excellent care.

A few hours will leave an ineffaceable and distinct memory, and a week's intimate study will not have exhausted its charm.

The history of the Cathedral divides into three nearly equal periods, each of about 400 years.

*The first period* was one of evangelistic mission work and

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