

To Receive the Audited Accounts and Balance Sheet for the Year 1955.

The audited accounts and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1955, were considered and adopted.

After dealing with a large correspondence the meeting terminated.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., took place on Saturday, May 12th, 1956, at which there was a very representative attendance. Miss A. R. Bunch, Acting President, was in the Chair. Prayers were read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson.

On rising, Miss Bunch read a statement concerning the present position of the College affairs, and which will be circulated to all Fellows and Members.

"My Six Wives" by King Henry (VIII)

ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON, March 8th, Mr. Bryant Peers, historian and friend of the College, delivered one of his latest lectures—"My Six Wives" by King Henry (VIII).

The lecture, originally designed for learned historical societies, tried to cover within the short period of one and a quarter hours, not only the wives of the king but why Henry was king at all! It told of the finding of the Crown of England in a rosebush, exactly where the usurper Richard III had cast it upon perceiving that the Battle of Bosworth Field, on that historic August 22nd, 1485, was completely lost.

The speaker made no efforts to hide his contempt and dislike of Henry Tudor and he quoted from some of the famous historians. He briefly traced the story of the marriage of Katherine of Aragon and Arthur, Henry's elder brother, the death of Arthur from plague and the final marriage of Katherine and Henry for political ends. He quoted Leviticus and submitted that the death either before or after birth of the EIGHT children of Katherine, Mary Tudor alone surviving, was in some inexplicable way tied up with the teaching of this book (Chapter 20, v. 21).

The severance of the Crown from the Roman Church, the intrigue and the methods used by the king and his bishops were referred to. Cranmer's wile and Wolsey's alarm, Katherine's prayers and protestations were remarked. The last hours and the last words of Anne Bolyne were described in graphic detail.

The marriage of Henry and Anne of Cleves, when he referred to her as a "Flanders Mare" was described and the lecturer said that Henry, wily as his father, Henry VII, the founder of the House of Tudor, executed only the wives who were of English stock. The foreign wives, Katherine of Aragon and Anne of Cleves were divorced, Anne with a very handsome dowry, because he was afraid of the repercussions of the queen's country.

The lecture, complicated in many respects because it is a complicated subject, ground its way to a close with a description of the death of the king on January 28th, 1547, at the age of 56 and a very extraordinary story was told of a premonition of a Friar, Friar Peyton who had told the king, from the pulpit of his church at Greenwich *fourteen years before the death of the king*, that like Ahab, the dogs would lick his blood when he was dead. Strange but true, this actually happened according to the generally well authenticated report of a contemporary document in the Sloane Collection.

Though the most be players, some must be spectators.

BEN JONSON.

The sweetest essences are always confined in the smallest glasses.

JOHN DRYDEN.

The Children's Care Committee Service in London—A Review of the Last Ten Years.

What the Care Committees Are.

THE L.C.C.'s Care Committees consist of voluntary workers attached to the London Schools. They act as a link between home and school in order help every child to obtain the maximum benefit from his or her education. The Care Committees aim to interpret their duties in terms of human fellowship and understanding, so that parents can be made aware of the opportunities which exist to help them and their families. The L.C.C. employs a staff of professional social workers, called "organisers," who train, help and guide the voluntary workers.

Working as a team, the care committees are responsible for attending school medical inspections; they report to the school doctor on home conditions, and try to see that the parents understand and carry out the doctor's recommendations. The care committees undertake the home visiting for special cases, e.g., behaviour problems, maladjustment, delinquency, boarding school grants, etc. They work in close co-operation with the head teachers in all matters, especially over the provision of free or part-free meals, and the provision of clothing in necessitous cases. In secondary schools the care committees also work in liaison with the youth employment officers, and help to bridge the difficult gap between school and the adult world by their friendship and interest.

Above all the members of the care committees aim to become the accepted non-official family friend, ready to help at all times, and knowing where to evoke the right help for each particular problem as it arises.

Care Committees are an example of the partnership between an authority and the citizen with a feeling for the community.

A voluntary worker is freer to become a friend to the families who require help, and in this lies the key to the whole essence of care committee work.

As mentioned in the report, the Council is still in need of more voluntary workers in this field and the Principal Organiser of children's care in the Education department at County Hall would be pleased to hear from anyone who has time to spare for this valuable social work.

General.

In 1945 the future of the care committee service was problematical. The number of voluntary workers was about 600 in the whole of the County of London and very few committees existed. The schools were only gradually settling down after the war chaos and the intimate knowledge of children and their families which teachers and care committees had in common before the war had been lost through evacuation and removals. Although in every district there was a sprinkling of faithful voluntary workers who had continued throughout the war, it is small wonder that many people thought that the day of voluntary service was fading.

Since then, owing to unremitting effort on the part of voluntary workers and organising staff alike, care committee membership has risen to the present total of 2,341 and, though there are still some parts of London where it is difficult to find people prepared to do this work there is no doubt that it has a great appeal to men and women who wish to serve the community.

Ten years of expansion in education, the raising of the school-leaving age, the building of new schools and new housing estates and the opening of the first comprehensive schools have brought many new problems to the care committee service. This year's report reveals evidence of a remarkable capacity to absorb any new work that comes

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