

## 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 Monday, October 20th, 1952, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Miss Dorothy de M. Warren, D.N. (Lond.), was in the chair.

Prayers having been read, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

On rising, the President in acknowledging the very hearty welcome back extended to her by the meeting on her return from a long illness, expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation of the Council's kindness and warm sympathy in which she had found much comfort, and that it gave her great pleasure to be back again.

### Business Arising.

#### THE BEDFORD FENWICK SCHOLARSHIP

The Council unanimously expressed satisfaction that Miss Warren accepted nomination to attend the International Congress of Nurses to be held in Brazil in 1953 as the Bedford Fenwick Scholar and representative of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

It was reported that information had been received from the Executive Secretary of the National Council of Nurses concerning the revised cost and arrangements for seats for the Coronation, which are now ranging in cost between £15 and £42. Even so, it is impossible at the moment to guarantee acquiring a seat as the demand is so great and the accommodation very limited.

A letter on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee of the National Council of Nurses was received from the Executive Secretary, Miss F. Rowe, expressing "very best thanks for most generous donation," sent from the British College of Nurses, Ltd., "to be devoted to the work of the exchange of nurses which the National Council of Nurses undertakes. This donation will do much to further this branch of work, which is proving of great value to the Nursing Profession and our members in this country, and our colleagues in other countries."

### Correspondence.

A considerable amount of correspondence was considered which included information concerning the low standard of nursing evident in some places and on which there was serious discussion. Letters from members in need of financial help were considered and it was agreed to award donations from the Ethel Mary Fletcher Benevolent Fund.

### Financial Statement.

The financial statement for the month ending October 20th was presented and adopted.

### Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership of the College were received and all were adopted.

### Gift.

From Miss Jessie Holmes there had been received for the History Section, a brass box of charming design and with it a Christmas Card, both of which were presented to Miss Holmes by Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary in 1914. It was agreed that a letter of warm thanks be sent to Miss Holmes.

The meeting then terminated.

### Lecture.

A Lecture will be delivered by Sister Gladys Stephenson, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., at the British College of Nurses, Ltd.,

19, Queen's Gate, entitled: "Nursing Conditions in China." on Wednesday, November 26th, at 3 p.m. Tea 4 p.m.

On her long experience of nursing in China, Miss Stephenson will be intensely interesting—so do come!

## A Year in Scandinavia.

### UNDER THE EXCHANGE OF NURSES SCHEME.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following encouraging report from one of our nurses who has spent a year in Scandinavia through the untiring efforts of the Secretariat of our National Council of Nurses.

"Any Nurse who is interested in seeking employment abroad may like to hear about the year I spent working in Scandinavia under the scheme organised by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

"As I was not able to speak any foreign language fluently, the only countries I could apply to were Holland or Denmark both of which are willing to employ foreign nurses whether or not they are familiar with the language. I chose Denmark, and some little time after filling in the necessary forms, was accepted by the Danish Nursing Council, and offered a post as Staff Nurse at the Rigshospital, Copenhagen.

"Although I went with an English friend we found many English Nurses already installed at different hospitals all over the city and I believe there were others in every part of the country.

"The Rigshospital housed approximately 1,100 patients and was said to be one of the oldest in Copenhagen and therefore not the most modern. We found, however, that their methods did not differ greatly from ours and the treatments were much the same as those to which we were accustomed.

"Working conditions were good, an eight-hour day is the general rule throughout the country. At first we were not a great deal of use as regards taking any responsibility of the ward as we were unable to read or write reports, many of the patients and nurses spoke English well and we were soon able to find our way about. Until we had acquired some knowledge of the language we received only half-pay, but after four months we received the same amount as a fully-trained Danish Staff Nurse—namely about £20 a month. We were well looked after, had comfortable rooms and were able to make many good friends both inside and outside the hospital.

"After spending six months in Copenhagen we applied to the Norwegian Nursing Council for occupation in one of their hospitals, and were accepted. We went to work in a small medical hospital in the south of Norway. We were considered to be sufficiently fluent in the Danish language by this time to understand Norwegian, although at first we found it rather difficult owing to the completely different type of accent and intonation.

"We were treated very kindly and given every opportunity to sample the pleasures of a Scandinavian winter—ski-ing, skating, etc.—and thoroughly enjoyed them.

"Here again we worked a 48-hour week and did not find the work too arduous. It was interesting to find many cases of poliomyelitis in the hospital and we found the physiotherapy and remedial treatments quite excellent, although after a certain length of time the patients were transferred to special hospitals.

"The time passed very quickly and we were sorry when we had to say good-bye to our many friends and acquaintances. We were able to see some of the beautiful Norwegian mountains and fjords before we left and hope it won't be too long before we are able to visit them again.

MARGERY E. G. DANCER."

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