

Karachi, Abbotabad and Rawalpindi) and India (Bombay, Madras, Vellore, Calcutta, Delhi and Agra).

LONDON'S 400 DISTRICT NURSES made 831,676 visits to patients in their own homes during the first six months of this year—an increase of 9 per cent. on the corresponding period in 1951, when 762,667 visits were made. This represents an average of over 2,000 visits each nurse, by foot or cycle.

Announcing these new figures, an official of the Central Council for District Nursing in London said, "This is a record, and underlines our need for more trained nurses. It also brings extra financial problems and means a large increase in the sum required to supplement official grants. For every £1 spent, the service must find 2s. from voluntary sources, under the arrangement by which it is able to preserve almost complete independence.

"More than 50 per cent. of the visits were to elderly patients who cannot be admitted to hospital because of the demand on beds."

LONDON NEEDS 200 MORE district nurses to assist the team of 400 who are at present looking after a population of 3½ million. Calls on the district nurse are steadily mounting year by year. In 1951, London's "Four Hundred" made 1,550,000 visits to patients in their own homes—an increase of 157,000 visits on the previous year.

"As the number of calls increases," says an official of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, "the strain upon the organisation of the district nursing service grows greater not only from the point of view of recruitment but also raises financial problems. We require £30,000 to preserve our independent status, for we are not entirely State supported but must raise 10 per cent. of our income from voluntary sources to supplement official grants."

THE VERY EXCELLENT AND informative first Report of the International Council of Nurses, edited by Miss Daisy Bridges, Executive Secretary, will, we hope, be available for anyone who would care to apply for a copy to the Headquarters, I.C.N., 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

NATION-WIDE HUNTS FOR DONORS of rare types of blood should no longer be necessary with the coming into use recently of a National Panel of nearly 2,000 donors whose red blood cells have been classified down to the finest sub-divisions of the blood groups.

Several hundred distinguishable kinds of blood are included in the Panel, which is the first of its type in the world. All the donors have volunteered to give blood in an emergency and duplicate panel registers at the 12 Regional Centres of the National Blood Transfusion Service, and at the corresponding centres in Scotland and Northern Ireland, will enable a donor of the type of blood needed to be found without delay.

Donors and recipients of blood transfusions are usually classified into four groups known as O, A, B and AB; but recent researches have shown that they can also be subdivided in many other ways, the best known being that into Rhesus-positive and Rhesus-negative. Since each new kind of subdivision at least doubles the previous number of classes the total effect is that there are now many thousands of distinguishable kinds of blood.

## 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 Wednesday, September 17th, at 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Thomas Barber, D.N., was in the Chair.

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

The Council was very happy to receive a communication from the President, Miss D. de M. Warren, whose improved health would very shortly find her in harness again.

### Business Arising out of the Minutes.

A letter was reported from Mr. M. H. Hill, Ministry of Health, in reply to the enquiry from the Council concerning the employment of untrained nurses in Nursing Homes.

A letter of appreciation was received from Miss B. Seabrook, Secretary, the Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland, for support given in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to "The Challenge of Labrador."

A communication was received from a Canadian Fellow of the College expressing her great pleasure in visiting this country and appreciation of the hospitality she received at the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

The Council at this meeting wish the members of the College to know that official arrangements have been made by which the College financial year will end, for the future, on December 31st instead of June 30th, which will now bring the holding of the Annual Meeting in March.

### Correspondence.

A letter was reported from Miss B. Cooper, member of Council, stating her inability to attend the meeting owing to illness; hope for her speedy recovery was expressed.

Among letters received, expressing interest in the History Section of the College, was one from Mr. H. L. Bryant Peers.

The Council received several letters from Fellows and Members in need of financial help, to which they are giving their serious consideration.

In reply to the invitation of the Women's Organisation Committee for Economic Information, for two delegates from the College to attend their Conference to be held at Maidstone at the end of October, Miss M. Thurnham, Vice-President, and Miss M. Wakefield were appointed.

### The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Council received information from the Executive Secretary, Miss Frances Rowe, that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has been graciously pleased to extend her Patronage to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This news was received with very great pleasure.

Consideration was given to the nomination of a College representative to attend the International Council of Nurses Congress in Brazil in 1953.

### Gifts.

The following Gifts to the College were reported.

Framed pictures of Lanesborough House, afterwards St. Georges Hospital; and view of the Foundling Hospital dated January, 1750, presented by Miss A. R. Bunch.

Medals bestowed on Miss Jessie Holmes, for service in the Great War, sent by her now instead of leaving them until her death.

### Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement to September 17th was presented and adopted.

It was agreed that lectures which were considered for the Winter Session will be reported in the next issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The Meeting then terminated.

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