

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, January 13th, 1954, at 2.30 p.m.

Vice-President Miss A. R. Bunch, A.R.R.C., Fellow, was in the chair.

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

Nomination of President to the College

It was proposed and agreed that Mrs. Mabel C. Barber, D.N. (Lond.), Fellow, be nominated as President in place of Miss Dorothy de Warren, D.N., who owing to ill health had resigned.

Mrs. Barber, in accepting the Presidency, carried the good wishes of her colleagues on the Council for a happy and successful term of office.

Election of Vice-Presidents.

On rising, the Chairman, Miss Bunch, was warmly welcomed, when expressing her thanks and appreciation to the Council for bestowing upon her the honour and privilege of becoming a Vice-President of the British College of Nurses, Ltd. She hoped that in accepting this honour she might be able to assist the Council in their deliberations in matters concerning the Nursing Profession.

In a communication, much regretting that she was unavoidably prevented attending the meeting, Miss M. Wakefield expressed thanks to the Council on their electing her a Vice-President to the Council.

The meeting passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Miss Jessie Holmes, for her very generous, welcome gift to the College and the dainty confection sent by her for the Council.

Many letters expressing sincere appreciation for the Council's gift of Christmas cheer were received from Fellows and Members.

Financial Help

On considering the need of a member suffering from ill-health and in much straitened circumstances, it was agreed that a donation from the Ethel Mary Fletcher Benevolent Fund be sent to her, with sympathy.

Correspondence was reported from Mrs. M. C. Barber, D.N. (Lond.), in connection with the movement to establish "short stay" homes, where mentally defective children may stay up to six weeks while their parents take a holiday. Under the auspices of the National Association for Mental Health, Orchard Dene, View Road, Rainhill, Liverpool, is the first home of its kind where children are taken from all over England.

The scheme is being inaugurated to relieve the severe shortage of mental nursing staff—as in the present position, although there were 57,000 children and adults in mental hospitals and homes in England and Wales, 50,000 cases were still to be dealt with in their own homes.

Mrs. Barber speaks with enthusiasm of the splendid work being done at Orchard Dene in this cause.

Election of Fellows and Members

Applications for membership were received and all were elected.

Financial Statement

The Financial Statement for the month was presented and adopted.

National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It was proposed and agreed that Miss Beatrice West, M.B.C.N., be appointed a College Delegate to the National Council of Nurses to replace Miss M. B. MacKellar.

The next meeting was fixed for March 3rd at 2.30 p.m.

Palestine.

THOSE OF YOU WHO read Miss MacKellar's charming and interesting article on Palestine must have felt that she had given us an excellent picture of what she had seen. Miss MacKellar certainly "travelled with her eyes open."

Her account of the sickly and diseased refugee children in Jordan, is sad; even now, after some years of exile from Palestine, the Arab refugees are still living in caves and tents; at first, the babies died at the rate of eight a day, but that has been checked.

In a room at the main gate of the Close sits a former staff nurse of the Infant Welfare Clinic which existed in the Old City of Jerusalem under the British Mandate.

Miss Reginae Shilace is a Christian Arab. There is

hardly an alleyway, or a house, in the Old City, that she does not know, or where she has not been.

Applicants for help are, in the first instance, interviewed by her and, if need be, assisted by her, to collect the necessary information for the Bishop's other relief workers to deal with the case.

When after the First World War, the Mandate for Palestine was entrusted to Great Britain, a British Bishop entered the country on the heels of the army, and found himself plunged at once into a vast relief problem. From 1918 to 1920 much of Bishop McInnes' work centred round an organisation for Near East relief.

Thirty years later, when the Mandate ended, another Bishop was faced with a new relief problem arising out of the partition of Palestine; the formation of the State of Israel,



Mrs. Mabel C. Barber, S.R.N., D.N., F.B.C.N.

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