

The blind and partially sighted.
Ophthalmic care of children.
Orthoptics.
Acrylic lens.
Operation in cataract extraction.
Squints.
Study of work of departments.
Practical nursing care of operative cases.
Preparation and training of Ophthalmic Nurses on Post-graduate level.

Reflections of a Septuagenarian.

By Mrs. Mary Breckinridge.

IT IS EXCITING to find one's self in the middle of a decade. The beginning of each ten-year span is like the first chapter in a new book that one is eager to read, with the thought of new adventures just ahead. Each decade has its own meaning. But, for me, the one in which I am now, has held more liberations from the thrall of social conventions than all the others that came before. Much is forgiven the old that in the young would be thought peculiar. This was especially true for the young of my own generation. I am that outmoded thing, a Southern gentlewoman of the nineteenth century. My girlhood was hedged in by conventions. But there was one glorious thing about my girlhood. We were trained in a code so unbreakable that I expect to keep it as long as I live. If one were to choose a single word to define this code it would be loyalty—loyalty to one's country, kinsmen and friends, to those from whom hospitality had been accepted, and to one's obligations. In these reflections I think chiefly of the code and its bearing on my seventy-fifth birthday.

Some of you write to me saying, "We know you are strong and well, but don't you get tired?" Yes, I do, but the old have no business getting tired. They have survived in order to protect the young.

When I set the Frontier Nursing Service in motion, a generation ago, I assumed a measure of protection for rural young. And this calls for the highest loyalty in my code. Such loyalty needs must include gratitude to all those of you who carry the burden of support of the Frontier Nursing Service, to those of you who serve selflessly on its staff, and above all to those of you (over 10,000) who are its patients—the most understanding patients in the whole, wide world. This means that an outgrowth of my loyalty is a gratitude so immense as to be inexpressible.

I had two dreams for my seventy-fifth birthday, and neither one of them has come true. I hoped that by then we would have a million-dollar endowment. Although we do have more than \$900,000, we lack my goal of \$1,000,000 by some seventy thousand dollars.

My second dream was to have money in the bank a month in advance of spending it! This is not as faithless as it sounds. God is like the best of human fathers—only a lot nicer—and what human father is there who doesn't like to concoct a treat for his children on their birthdays? Mine will come to me in my Father's own way, and in His own time.

(Reprinted from *The Quarterly Bulletin of the Frontier Nursing Service, Kentucky*.)

A Yearly Remembrance.

ONCE AGAIN WE have enjoyed the lovely box of primroses sent us by faithful friends in the West Country. Their annual journey to this office has been so much appreciated over the years.

This year the message accompanying the gift was as follows:—

"Us always thinks of our vriends 'bout Primrose time."

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 18th, 1956, at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

A communication from a member asking for advice concerning her professional duties was considered, and steps to be taken on her behalf were agreed.

It was unanimously decided to give help from the Benevolent Fund to a Fellow of 80 years of age suffering from bronchitis, heart complications and senility and for whom accommodation in a home for retired nurses is required.

Many letters were reported of thanks and warm gratitude from elderly nurses for Christmas cheer.

Election of Fellows and Members

Applications for membership were received and all were elected.

Financial Statement.

The financial statement was received and adopted.

Lecture.

Arrangements have been made for a Lecture to take place on 8th March, when one entitled "My Six Wives, by King Henry," will be delivered at the College by Mr. H. L. Bryant Peers.

National Council of Women of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Miss B. West, Fellow, kindly consented to continue to act as the College representative to the National Council of Women.

Date of next meeting of the Council to be held on Wednesday, February 15th.

The meeting then terminated.

A MEETING OF THE Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, February 15th, 1956, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m. Vice-President Miss A. R. Bunch, S.R.N., was in the Chair.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read.

It was proposed from the Chair that a message of regret concerning the publication in the B.J.N. in connection with Miss Rowe's excellent address on her travels in U.S.A. be conveyed to Miss F. Rowe, Executive Secretary N.C.N., from the Council.

In a large correspondence, it was reported that deep gratitude was expressed by a Fellow in thanking the Council for their help in procuring information concerning her financial position. Thanks for financial help came from a Fellow whose health has broken down, and a Member writes in warm terms of how much she appreciates the care and comfort she is receiving as a patient in the South London Hospital for Women.

On enquiry the Council was very happy to hear from Miss G. G. Goodchild, S.R.N., S.C.M., Matron of Christie Hospital, Holt Radium Institute, Withington, whose courageous crusade inspired warm admiration; she writes:—

"I was not badly treated in the campaign. How could one be on a factual issue? Quite obviously, with the opposition from the Royal College of Nursing and the Matron's Association, many of the 'powers that be' tried to dissuade me from continuing the campaign.

"The thing I have tried to do throughout has been to keep any personal element out of the picture.

"The whole set up within the hospitals today is quite ridiculous, and the salary anomalies are affecting practically every department and inter-department.

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