

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

Representing the nurses of Great Britain and Ireland was the National Council of Nurses founded in 1904, of which this Journal was the official organ for upwards of 40 years.

Proposed Educational Memorial to Florence Nightingale.

The year 1912 saw the proposal, at the Banquet held in Cologne at the International Council of Nurses' Congress, made by Ethel Gordon Fenwick, that the nurses of the world should co-operate to found an educational memorial to Florence Nightingale.

This Journal heralded the formation of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation Scheme in its May, 1932, issue when three representatives of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Alicia Lloyd Still, and Miss E. M. Musson met three representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, which resulted in the great occasion of Nightingale Week when, after 20 years, it fell to the lot of Ethel Gordon Fenwick to be principal organiser, and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was harmoniously launched.

The State Registration of Nurses.

It was largely through the influence of this Journal that the Act for the State Registration of Nurses was placed on the Statute Book of these Realms in 1919, consistently reporting communications between Members of Parliament, attendance in parliament, and many hours of representative lobbying over the years, and of the repeated frustrations—such as actions of Members under the ten minutes rule, putting back the clock for years in the great endeavour.

The British College of Nurses.

In May, 1926, these columns reported the founding of the British College of Nurses, endowed by a wealthy benefactor, an organisation which was fundamentally inaugurated for the higher education of nurses and their professional freedom and independence.

The Journal has since its inception, been the official organ of which all Fellows and Members received a copy.

The British College of Nurses has always been most fortunate in the disinterested and devoted service given by the Members of the Council for the benefit and welfare of the Fellows and Members.

Under this work this Journal has reported educational advantages, many large grants to nurses for higher education, attendance at International Congresses of Nurses, for instance to attend the Congress in Atlantic City in 1947, the following grants were allocated: Dame Ellen Musson £100; Miss G. M. Hardy (the Bedford Fenwick Scholar) £300; Miss D. de M. Warren £200; Miss H. M. Loughlin £180; Miss L. Clark £180; and the League of St. Bartholomews Hospital Nurses £50; and legal aid, lectures, professional and otherwise, as desired by the members themselves, dinner and social functions bringing nurses into touch with distinguished national guests.

Ethel Gordon Fenwick and Her Staff.

During the years of the Second World War, the Journal never failed to appear.

The death of Ethel Gordon Fenwick, the Editor of the Journal, in 1947 was inevitably a great blow and owing to her foresight in having trained Miss Maude R. Angel to carry on her work our readers were greatly blessed in the continuation of the Journal in its unique course.

Great appreciation is felt for Miss Angel's invaluable services to her memory and the Nursing Profession generally.

It has been more than evident that, in the publishing of the Journal, the Founder's systematic principles of office work and accountancy were faithfully followed by the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, and Miss Beatrice A. Bowering.

Correspondence would show that during the years since the death of the Founder written appreciation of the Fellows and Members has continued to reach the office.

Devotion to the Royal Family.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has always proudly shown its devotion to the Royal Family, and joyfully used its pages on great historic and glorious events, especially in connection with Her Majesty's Coronation.

The Assistant Nurse.

This Journal has ever been an advocate of justice to Registered Nurses, and no space has been spared in its pages to deplore the unjust legislation which led to the recognition by the State of the Assistant Nurses' Roll which, in effect, is a Register and which has resulted in serious competition with the fully qualified Registered Nurse.

The Nurses' Register.

A further deprivation of the qualified nurses' rights, given by Parliament, was the withdrawal from publication of the Nurses' Register.

Concerning the battle that justice might be done in prohibiting this legislation, this Journal has reported the communications with both Houses of Parliament praying that such action should be prevented.

Farewell.

Through the ability of its Editor, the Journal has infallibly stood as a challenge to those who would deprive the Nursing Profession of its just rights and professional independence, of which there has been no other.

Ever since the first intimation of Ethel Gordon Fenwick's inspiration for the State Registration of Nurses, and all along the way in her battle for the professional independence and justice for nurses, this great woman suffered a relentless vendetta which persisted, and in her inauguration of the British College of Nurses proved not the least bitter.

We cannot say goodbye to our loyal supporters without expressing the privilege we have enjoyed as a trio, behind the scenes, working in such harmony for a cause created by Ethel Gordon Fenwick, the pioneer we have known and served for over 30 years, and loved to serve to the end.

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