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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

WE have pleasure in announcing that the Trustees of the British College of Nurses have invited Miss Margaret Breay, S.R.N., to act in a temporary capacity as Hon. Secretary to the Institution, and have empowered her to issue, in the first instance, the following letter, together with a reprint of the Editorial which appeared in our issue last month, to sufficiently trained nurses on the General Part of the Register for England and Wales, bringing to their notice the munificent benefaction which has been given to the Nursing Profession in this country:—

DEAR MADAM,

I have been requested by the Trustees of the College, just formed under the above name, to forward you herewith a reprint of an Article published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, giving preliminary information concerning its formation and endowment, its proposed constitution and future work.

This letter and Article are being posted in the first instance to Certificated Nurses registered in the General Part of the Registers under the authority of the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales, and for Scotland, so that they may be acquainted with this very important professional development, and that they may be given an early opportunity of attempting to obtain for themselves the valuable benefits the College will be able to bestow, in the future. It should, therefore, be understood that this is the only letter of its kind which will be issued to them. And I am instructed to add that the "Period of Grace" mentioned herein will cease as soon as the Trustees are satisfied with the number of suitable applications received for Fellowship or Membership of the College, and from the first 200 or so of the applications received, the Trustees will appoint the first Officers and Council.

You will observe, from the appended Article, which Nurses will be respectively eligible for the two Diplomas. But, inasmuch as any Foundation Member, by passing the higher Examination, might become hereafter a Fellow, the Trustees have decided that it would be more just during the "Period of Grace" to permit any *General Certificated Registered Nurse* who desires to do so, to apply for a *Foundation Fellowship*.

If you desire to avail yourself of this unique opportunity of professional co-operation and personal benefit, you can obtain a Form of Application for *either* the Fellowship Diploma, or the Membership Diploma—*definitely stating which you desire*—by forwarding a fully addressed stamped foolscap envelope to me at the above address.

I am, Dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Secretary (pro tem.)*.

It is a conclusive sign of the real interest which the readers of this JOURNAL are taking in founding their own College that already so many Fellowship fees have been forwarded to 431, Oxford Street, W. The enthusiastic supporters of the Scheme are, however, asked not to forward cheques until they receive and return their Forms of Application, carefully filled in, for Fellowship or Membership.

It is hoped that these Forms will be obtainable at an early date, from Miss M. Breay, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, which is being used as a temporary Office.

The promoters of the Nurses' College desire to make it quite clear that power has been taken to work in the most amicable spirit with any other organisation of nurses furthering the interests of our Profession and the community, and it is to be hoped that no attempt will be made to prevent the absolute freedom of Members of the Nursing Profession enjoying the munificent Gift so generously bestowed upon them.

The basic principles of the British College of Nurses are sympathy and solidarity between members of the Nursing Profession, and it will claim freedom of conscience and action for all.

The day the Nurses' Registration Acts received the Royal Assent in the House of Lords in 1919, and were placed upon the Statute Book of this Realm, forming Nursing into a legally constituted Profession, the death knell was sounded to economic control of its members by any outside power. Further, the exercise of professional responsibility became a primary duty upon the part of each Registered Nurse which she has no right to evade, and the foundation of the British College of Nurses gives each nurse who joins it a splendid opportunity of performing her professional duty in relation to the community, the medical profession, and her colleagues.

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