

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

To eager spirits, possessed of imagination, to adventure along an untrodden way of new endeavour, with its unknown and untried possibilities, brings a thrill of anticipation and delight, quite incomprehensible to those who find opportunity and satisfaction in paths already made smooth and safe by the passing over them of many feet.

To the former category, belong those Registered Nurses who, at the bidding of the Trustees of the new British College of Nurses, assembled on the afternoon of July 20th at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., to be obligated as Fellows and Members of the College, and, subsequently, to be appointed Members of its Council.

In the beautiful Board Room, which has seen so many fateful meetings in connection with the forward organisation of nurses, there was an atmosphere of elation and joy, elusive but real, as those invited assembled and spoke of the truly wonderful Gift to the Nursing Profession by an anonymous Donor of £100,000, and the possibilities of development under a Council composed exclusively of Nurses resulting therefrom.

To devise the means whereby the Gift can be utilized for the benefit of the Nursing Profession will be one of the delightful duties and privileges of the Council.

Under the Trust Deed of the College, it is provided that all Meetings of the Council shall open with Prayers. This procedure was therefore adopted, after which every Nurse present repeated the Solemn Obligation which has already been printed in full in these columns, in which she promised to fulfil to the best of her power and ability, and without any selfish consideration, the duties entrusted to her, to loyally perform her professional duties to the medical practitioners under whose directions she would work, to regard as a sacred confidence any private facts concerning her patients, their relations or their friends which she might learn in the course of her attendance upon the former; that she would faithfully and constantly obey all rules and regulations of the College, that, so far as might be in her power, she would assist any other Fellow or Member of the College who might ask for her help or advice, and that she would constantly strive both by her personal conduct and pro-

fessional work to reflect credit on the Profession of Nursing, on the British College of Nurses, and on her fellow members thereof. These promises she solemnly swore to observe, with the open Bible in her hand in proof of her Obligation.

Each Fellow and Member then signed the Roll of the College, in proof that she had taken the Obligation.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick who, as a Trustee of the College Fund, was present in the crimson and mauve Robes of a Doctor of Medicine, then admitted each severally, after which he announced amidst applause that the Trustees desired to confer the Office of President of the British College of Nurses upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., for life, as some recognition of her very wonderful work for the Nursing Profession of 39 years' duration. This honour Mrs. Fenwick accepted, and was inducted to the Chair.

Miss Margaret Breay, S.R.N., and Miss Helen L. Pearse, S.R.N., were appointed by the Trustees Senior Vice-President and Vice-President respectively, and the following ladies were admitted as Members of the Council, leaving four seats still to be filled:—

Fellows.

MISS ALICE M. BUSHBY, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., cert. King's College Hospital, London. Matron, Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E. Member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

MISS JOHANNA M. CRUICKSHANK, S.R.N., R.R.C., cert. Guy's Hospital, London. Matron-in-Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

MISS ELIZABETH L. MACAULAY, S.R.N., O.B.E., cert. Western Infirmary, Glasgow. Matron, Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone.

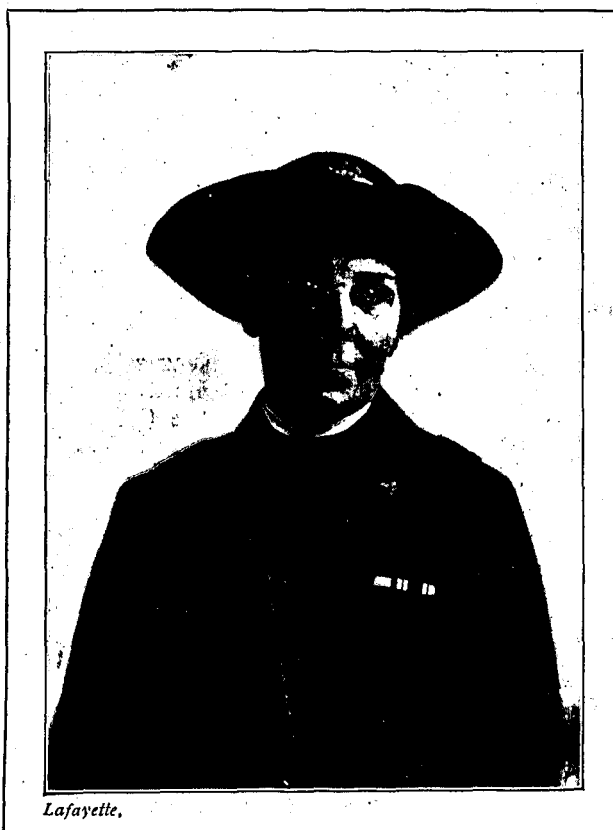
MISS ISABEL MACDONALD, S.R.N. cert. Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association.

MISS ALICE REEVES, R.G.N., R.R.C., cert. Adelaide Hospital, Dublin. Matron, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin.

MISS SUSAN A. VILLIERS, S.R.N., R.F.N., cert. St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Matron, South Western Hospital, Stockwell, M.A.B. Member, General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Member.

MISS EMILY J. HASWELL, S.R.N., cert. Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool. Matron and Proprietress, Private



MISS J. M. CRUICKSHANK, R.R.C.
Matron-in-Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.
Foundation Fellow of the British College of Nurses.

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