

elevation of their Profession, and incidentally of their own personal prestige; and only after that, for the pecuniary advantages which the College will be able to provide.

Thirdly, it is important for the Council to bear in mind the Constitution which has been framed for the College. For example, that future Presidents shall be elected by the Council if possible from Fellows who have served the Office of Vice-President; and that future Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Council, from Fellows who have served as Councillors. The object of this provision, of course, is that the President and Vice-Presidents shall be intimately acquainted with the working of the Council so that they shall be able to guide the Meetings with discretion and knowledge. In the next place, as vacancies occur on the Council, which will be every year after July 1st, 1928, three Fellows will be elected, by postal Ballot, by the whole body of Fellows of the College; and one Member, in the same manner, by the whole body of Members of the College. This provision is a new departure from the ancient custom of some professional Corporations which restrict the membership of their Governing bodies entirely to their Fellows; and give their Members no representation thereon. It is proposed, therefore, as the constitution of this College, not only as a matter of justice to the Members, but also to obviate the continual source of friction, and demands for representation, which are made by the members of those Corporations, which maintain the rigid restriction referred to.

In short, the Trustees have striven to constitute this College on foundations which ancient experience has proved to be strong and just, and worthy of respect, and which may therefore be expected to endure. And they now, with every confidence, relinquish all but their financial responsibility, and hand over the future management and control of the British College of Nurses to the fully-formed Council, as its Governing body.

Miss Pearse expressed to Dr. Fenwick the grateful and cordial thanks of the Council for his work on behalf of the College, and said the Council could not be too grateful to him for the guidance it had received from him during the initial stages.

Dr. Fenwick, in reply, said it had been a labour of love, and counselled care in expenditure of the Funds. An income of £5,000 a year might seem a large one, but unless wisdom in administration were exercised it could soon be expended. All now depended on the enthusiasm of the Fellows and Members to make the College a great success.

Dr. Fenwick then withdrew.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed, and arising out of the Minutes the President reported that she had made arrangements for the Robes, of the materials of which she submitted patterns. She reported further that she had seen the artist concerning the Diploma, a sketch of which was on view, and asked the advice of the Council as to certain details. She also reported progress in regard to the Seal.

Presentation by the Council to the College.

Mrs. Strong then asked the President to accept on behalf of the College a silver inkstand as a gift from the

Members of the First Council, in the following words:—

MADAM PRESIDENT,—As it is the custom in Britain, through precedents established in centuries long prior to our own, for bodies of high standing in the various departments of the professional, political and economic life of the Nation, to collect certain treasures in the form principally of plate, pictures and furniture to be handed on to succeeding generations who, in their turn form the Membership of such bodies; it has appeared to some of us to be fitting that the first piece of plate, to be received by the British College of Nurses, should come from the Members of its First Council and take the form of an inkstand and pen. I ask you on behalf of the College, Madam, to accept these in the hope that this and future Councils, remembering their great responsibilities; may, through the medium of our gift to-day, place on record deliberations which will give proof of an enlightened and beneficent policy on the part of this great new organisation, a policy we trust that will always be fruitful in ensuring that the History of Nursing will continue to be written in the light of knowledge, in all the purity of scrupulous honour, and with a loving kindness inspired by charity towards all mankind.

She added that she hoped it would only be the first of many such presentations, and expressed the hope that the second one would be a fine Chair for the President. She hoped the Council would be so successful that people would feel it an honour to come after them. The future depended upon ourselves.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that as President of the Council she had great pleasure in accepting this magnificent piece of plate on its behalf.

She stated that it was a reproduction of an inkstand made in the reign of George I in 1720, possessed by the late Duke of Cambridge. Its beauty was in its simplicity.

She proposed that an Inscription, in old English letters, should be engraved upon it: "Presented to the British College of Nurses by the Members of the First Council, October 23rd, 1926." This was agreed.

The Members of the Council who had not seen this lovely piece of plate expressed their admiration and approval.

Correspondence.

A number of letters were then received, including one from a Fellow of the College asking for information on various points, and the answers which had been sent to her questions.

It was considered that it would be advisable to incorporate the information therein contained in a Leaflet, as it would probably be useful to other Fellows and Members.

A letter of protest from Miss Beatrice Kent, Fellow, concerning the inclusion of the name of a certain Nurse on the State Register, was referred to the Political and Economic and Legal Protection Committee for consideration and report.

Appointment of Secretary.

The Council then considered the important question of the Appointment of a Secretary to the College, in connection with which the President emphasised how much the efficiency, popularity, and tone of an institution depended upon the Secretary.

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