

sang delightfully, "The Mouse," by request, being specially appreciated.

The Club has had a good year, having made up 8,596 beds and served 16,601 meals since last November. May it go on and prosper.

Whenever we meet hospital Matrons we personally find them all that is courteous and kind, but we cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that as a body they are failing in vision and generosity in the policy they are adopting towards the Great Gift to the profession as a whole. Here in England for the first time a magnificent benefaction of £100,000 has been allocated to Registered Nurses, with the proviso that they will add to it, administer it themselves, and thus become a responsible body of professional workers, inspired by high ideals of self-respect and citizenship—determined to attain the widest proficiency in their work for the community. Surely it is indisputable that nurses desiring to join the first College composed entirely of and governed by nurses, thus inspired, are worthy of all encouragement and sympathy from those members of their profession in high places. But incredible as it may appear, far from such encouragement being extended to them by their seniors in office, as a body the Matrons of Training Schools are uniting to *discourage* and oppose members of the nursing staffs from joining the British College of Nurses, some even going so far as to use undue influence in preventing them doing so. That the majority of these ladies are members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is no excuse for their antagonistic attitude, and that such opposition resolves itself into economic intimidation, makes their conduct all the more deplorable. It is inevitable that such a policy of restriction will react inimically on the Training Schools, which now are often unable to obtain the highly-educated, cultured type of girl so necessary to train for our noble vocation, if it is to maintain honourable standards. We have been moved to speak thus frankly, because of many complaints made to us privately as President of the British College of Nurses. Our reply has been study nursing history for the past forty years, and note how unwise and how futile it is to try to stem an irresistible force. Take the burning question of State Registration of Nurses—the demand of the far-seeing few for the organisation of Nursing Education by the State—consider the vexatious, interested opposition to this great reform by just the same type of people, the autocrats, who control nursing economics, and their senior officials, and realise that in spite of social influence, wealth, economic supremacy, the irresistible force passed under, over and beyond them and attained its objective. The same force, evolution controlled by conscience, must take the same course, and fulfil its destiny. The Profession of Nursing is right to *secure the power to do its duty* to the community—and to itself—and this in time it most certainly will do. From the highest therefore to its most humble member all should unite to attain the exercise of reason, and to help one another in the struggle towards light. How is it that quite clever people so often act the part of Canute, forget the heel of Achilles, and the nibbling of the mouse?

We publish a few "kernels" which have influenced us in making the foregoing remarks.

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The Fifth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on November 20th, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., at 3 p.m. The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the Chair, and the following Members of the Council were present:—Miss M. Brey, and Miss H. L. Pearse (*Vice-Presidents*); Miss M. G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss J. M. Cruickshank, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss E. L. Macaulay, Mrs. Strong, Miss S. A. Villiers (*Fellows*); Miss E. J. Haswell (*Member*).

#### Minutes.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and arising out of the Minutes, the President made a report as to the cost of the Seal of the College, and of engraving the Plate for the Diploma, and as to the cost of printing the Diplomas on Japanese Vellum.

#### Presentation to the College.

Miss H. L. Pearse (*Vice-President*) then asked the Council to accept on behalf of the College a Seventeenth Century Bible, dated 1690. The Bible had, she said, been left to her mother by an old lady, and when she saw the beautiful inlaid box of the William and Mary period, presented to the College by the President, in which to keep the Testament, she thought it would be a most fitting shrine for the Bible.

The President, on behalf of the College, accepted the appropriate gift, and in the name of the Council thanked the donor.

#### Correspondence.

The correspondence received included a letter from Miss G. R. Hale, thanking the Council for her appointment as Secretary, from Miss M. Huxley and Miss G. A. Rogers, expressing their appreciation and pleasure at the inclusion of their names in the Scroll of Honour on the Diploma.

Several letters were notified from Fellows and Members expressing their sincere pleasure on election, and promising to help in the work of the College by every means in their power.

Letters were notified from highly qualified Registered Nurses in Canada, desiring to join the College. It was agreed to welcome these British Nurses with pleasure—subject to recommendation by the Registrars of the Registration Authorities of the Provinces from which they apply.

A letter from Miss Clara D. Noyes, R.N., Director Nursing Service, American Red Cross, Washington, conveying kindest congratulations to the College, was received with sincere appreciation.

#### Qualification for Fellowship and Membership.

A discussion took place on an application from a British subject trained in a country where reciprocity with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales is not established.

It was decided as a matter of principle, not to admit to Membership of the College professional nurses who are not qualified by training and reciprocal registration to register in England.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)