

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The tenth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, on Saturday, 23rd April, at 3 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was in the chair, and the following members were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss H. L. Pearse, *Vice-Presidents*; Miss G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Miss S. A. Villiers, *Fellows*, and Miss E. J. Haswell, *Member*.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., the Minutes of the last meeting which had been previously circulated, were taken as read, and confirmed.

Statement re Headquarters

Arising out of the Minutes, the President reported that progress was being made with decorations, fittings, &c., at the new Headquarters, 39, Portland Place, W., but owing to delays by firms supplying various fittings, the move from the present office could not be made until the middle of May, when it was hoped to move in, and have everything ready at the end of that month.

Revised Petition to the Privy Council.

The revised Petition to the Privy Council against the grant of a Royal Charter to the College of Nursing, Ltd., was read, approved and signed.

Correspondence.

Letters were read and replies directed to be sent, amongst them a letter from Miss Gooding, Matron of the Western Fever Hospital, Fulham, expressing thanks for an eloquent address delivered to the Nursing Staff by Miss I. Macdonald.

Gifts to the College.

The President announced gifts to the College, amongst them the offer of an antique French writing table by Mrs. Berens Dowdeswell, which was most gratefully accepted.

Election of Fellows and Members,

A large number of applications for Fellowship and Membership were considered, and all were elected.

Diploma Day.

The arrangements for Diploma Day were considered. It was agreed that twelve Stewards, wearing a distinctive petunia coloured rosette should help the Secretary at the Hoare Memorial Hall, at the Church House. Chairs to be named and numbered as on cards of invitation and on the envelopes containing the 360 Diplomas; by this arrangement it was hoped the actual ceremony of the Presentation of Diplomas by the President would be expeditiously carried out. The Secretary reported that several Fellows had given much valuable time in the office, with the mass of detail necessary to organising so large a function efficiently. It had been arranged to supply tea to 400 guests.

It was also agreed that the Council should entertain and act as hostesses at the *Conversazione and Supper* at the Royal British Nurses Association's Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on the evening of the 29th, which H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught had graciously consented to attend.

Nominations for the Next Election of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

It was agreed to support the nominations of such candidates as were in sympathy with the principles and policy of the Council. Several reforms were necessary, one to draft a prescribed scheme of training for probationers, preparatory to sitting for the prescribed Examinations by the G.N.C. The Act provides that this should be done, but the present Council has shirked and opposed this right of probationers. Means must also be taken to remove the names of convicted criminals from the Register of Nurses. The accounts should be audited in detail, showing detailed expenses and accounts of salaries paid to each class of official. Registered Nurses had a right to more information in these particulars, as they provided the whole of the money expended by the Council—now a huge sum. Not a penny was contributed by the State, which nominated nine out of 25 members of the Council, mostly medical men and members of the laity, who were not responsible to the Nurses' electorate, which was compelled to pay their expenses without a vestige of control. The constitution of the Penal and Disciplinary Committee was overweighted with these unprofessional and irresponsible persons who were primarily guilty for retaining a thief on the Register.

Three nominations for election to the G.N.C. were received and approved. It was decided to issue a statement of the policy of the College. The meeting then terminated.

VIEW DAYS AT HEADQUARTERS.

The British College of Nurses' Headquarters will be on view to Fellows and Members on June 9th and 10th, from 2.30 to 6 p.m., when it is hoped everything will be in order, and as many Members of the Council as possible will be present to meet them. Those attending will be invited to inscribe their names in a book in the Hall.

LETTER FROM LORD AMPHILL.

Lord Amptill, in a most kind letter to the President (in reply to an invitation to be present on Diploma Day), wrote that he expected to sail for the Argentine that day, and added: "If I were going to be in England it would give me the greatest pleasure to be present at the first presentation of the Diplomas of the British College of Nurses.

"I have read your leaflets with the greatest interest, and I congratulate you heartily on this crowning achievement of your life work on behalf of the Nursing Profession.

"I hope that the British College of Nurses will in due course become a very big thing; not only for nurses but also for womanhood."

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