

The Financial Report.

The Treasurer, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, presented the Financial Report together with the Statement of Accounts, and moved their adoption. These accounts, he said, showed good value such good value that he thought it would be found that it would be more than doubled. He also spoke of the interest of the Trustees in the Pension Fund, and said that £2,000 had been set aside for this object in the first year. When the capital had accumulated for some years, this capital sum would be invested before the first pension was awarded, thus providing security for the continuance of the pensions for life.

Miss Beatrice Kent expressed deep appreciation and thanks for all that Dr. Fenwick had done for nurses and nursing, and Miss Isabel Macdonald stressed the value to the College in the property Dr. Fenwick had secured for it, so that all its educational movements could be carried out in a fair house.

The Financial Report was then unanimously adopted.

The Constitution and Draft Bye-Laws.

The Constitution, incorporated in the Memorandum of Association, and the Draft Bye-Laws were then considered Clause by Clause.

Dr. Fenwick explained that the Council had given great attention to the Constitution, and the Trustees had subsequently gone through it. He believed it covered everything the Council wished, but it was also desired that it should have the consideration of the Fellows and Members before it was finally adopted.

The adoption of the Memorandum having been proposed and seconded was carried. Dr. Fenwick explained that this Clause could be amended, and the Bye-Laws could also be altered and amended.

The Draft Bye-Laws were then considered *seriatim* and finally carried.

Mrs. Strong spoke of the desirability for founding scholarships, and Miss Pell Smith enquired whether there would be a further examination beyond that of the General Nursing Council. She also spoke warmly of the devotion of the President to the interests of the College, and of the value of her expert guidance and organising ability in the initial stages.

In regard to further examinations the President said most decidedly there would be, both for Fellows and Members at the conclusion of the Term of Grace. The State Examination constituted the minimum, but there were many other departments—preliminary and post-graduate—which the General Nursing Council did not touch. For a complete training a knowledge of the nursing of maternity cases, of the care of infectious cases, of psychology, and of public health nursing were necessary.

In declaring the business concluded the President said they had done a vast amount of work in record time.

Miss Carson Rae, in proposing a warm vote of thanks to the Chairman of the meeting, to the Council, and to the Treasurer, said that everyone realised the great amount of work which had been accomplished by them.

In her response the President thanked the Council for the work done, and the harmonious way in which it had been performed. Foolish accusations were sometimes made against women of their inability to work together. The Council of the British College of Nurses had worked in the greatest harmony, and she thanked them for their loyal support.

Dr. Fenwick expressed his thanks for the appreciative reference to his work and the meeting then terminated.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The first Annual Dinner of the British College of Nurses held on July 15th, in the St. James's Room at the Hotel Metropole, London, W.C., was an historic, interesting and most successful function.

The guests, who were received by the President Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, included Sir Robert Armstrong Jones, C.B.E., M.D., Sir Alfred Rice Oxley, M.D., Dr. Graham Little, M.P., Mr. Francis Morris, Chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Dr. C. Courtenay Lord, Mr. Walter Spencer, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E., M.C., Dr. Wolseley Lewis, Dr. A. M. Hewat, (Ministry of Health), Dr. Bolton, Dr. H. W. Bruce, Dr. Frere, Dr. Lambert, Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson, Mrs. Binstead (Society of Women Journalists), Mrs. Baillie Reynolds, Miss E. L. C. Eden, who with Fellows and Members of the College and their guests were a company of nearly 100. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided, and the ladies looked charming in their gay and tasteful frocks; an excellent menu was provided and served, the tables being beautifully decorated with a wealth of crimson carnations. A happy spirit of good-fellowship prevailed and satisfaction was expressed on all sides that the function was to be an annual one.

After the loyal toasts of "The King" and "The Queen and the Royal Family" had been duly honoured the Chairman on rising, said:—

"Before calling upon Mrs. Andrews to propose the Toast of the evening, 'Success to the British College of Nurses,' you will be pleased to receive a letter from Lord Amphill—the nurses' most generous and sympathetic Champion in the House of Lords.

"You will remember how the stars in their courses tired of mist and fog blazed forth in support of our suppliant profession—how they illuminated Lord Amphill in the Lords, and Major Sir Richard Barnett in the Commons—and how these two enlightened men have protected the interests of the sick and the nurses in Parliament for many years.

Lord Amphill's Letter.

Lord Amphill writes:—

OAKLEY HOUSE,
BEDFORD,

11th July, 1927.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—I am truly sorry that I cannot have the honour and pleasure of being present at the first Annual Dinner of the British College of Nurses, but my numerous engagements would not admit of alteration. It was exceedingly kind of you to invite me and I warmly appreciate the compliment.

I hope that your festive gathering on the evening of the 15th will be something more than fitting social relaxation for those who have worked so zealously and capably at the foundation of the College. Annual Dinners play a great part in every branch of British social life and they are a good means of promoting *esprit de corps*, with all that that connotes, of any association whether it be military, political, philanthropic, scientific, commercial or athletic.

I hope, therefore, that your first Annual Dinner will mark the establishment of that corporate spirit which will go further than anything else to ensure the future success of the British College of Nurses and will also promote the good fellowship that already exists among those who have been working together for a great and good cause.

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