

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Fifteenth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday October 29th, 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., Mrs. Strong, Miss S. A. Villiers, Fellows, and Miss E. J. Haswell, Member.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the minutes were read and confirmed.

### Business arising from the Minutes.

Several matters referred to in the minutes were reported upon by the President. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick stated that the first Lectures had been delivered in the beautiful Lecture Hall on October 11th and 18th, in the form of teaching the procedure of Public Business. A class of twelve or so had been anticipated, but fifty-five Fellows and Members and a few non-members had expressed a keen desire to attend. The meetings had aroused great interest and had been very successful, and hopes were expressed for their repetition.

### Lectures on Nursing History.

The four Lectures on Nursing History to be delivered by Miss I. Macdonald would be held on Thursdays November 17th and 24th, and December 1st and 8th, at 5 p.m. Free to Fellows and Members. A fee of 1s. each Lecture to be charged to non-members of the College.

### Correspondence.

In reply to the letter addressed (by request of a Fellow) to the General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, asking if "It was within the power of a local Superintendent to dismiss an Assistant Superintendent or Queen's Nurse, without authority from Headquarters," the Secretary Miss Lowe replied: "It is within the power of a local Superintendent to dismiss an Assistant Superintendent or Queen's Nurse without authority from Headquarters. The Queen's Institute is not the employer of the Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents or Queen's Nurses who are working under local Associations. I may add, however, that the fact that the engagement of a Queen's Nurse has been terminated by a local Association need not prevent her from obtaining a post under another affiliated association; her name still remains on the roll of Queen's Nurses and she is entitled to apply for any post which may be vacant in connection with the Institute."

Taking into consideration the fact that Queen's Nurses are partly trained under the Institute, and that pensions are provided after long service, by voluntary subscriptions, the Council were of opinion that provision should be made for an appeal to Headquarters should a nurse on the Roll of Queen's Nurses desire to state her case before being dismissed.

For instance, the Fellow in question considered that she had aroused prejudice by refusing to take in lodgers at the direction of the President of a Local Association,

as she considered her work and professional status would be injuriously affected thereby.

The Secretary was directed to communicate this expression of opinion to the General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

### Letter re Administrative Work.

An interesting letter was read from a Fellow in Canada, desiring experience in administrative work in English Hospitals—and other information. It was referred to a Sub-Committee for report.

### Letter from Fellow in Argentina.

A Fellow wrote from Argentina: "Owing to the difficulty of remitting money yearly from abroad, would it be possible to become a Life Member, and what sum would be required?"

The reply sent informed her that the Constitution did not provide for Life Membership as few Nurses could afford an adequate sum.

### Thanks for Diploma.

Many letters from Fellows and Members expressing thanks for Diplomas received were reported. Miss M. E. Dykes wrote: "Thank you very much for sending me the beautiful Diploma. I am very proud to belong to the British College of Nurses and wish it the greatest success."

Miss A. Hiskin wrote: "Many thanks for the beautiful Diploma, I am very proud of it, and also of being a Foundation Fellow of such a wonderful organisation—the foundation of which reflects great credit on all concerned. I shall not soon forget my visit to the College in May last, the beautiful rooms and furniture, and last, but not least, the wonderful gowns and caps which were kindly shown to me by my guide. My dearest wish at the moment is to see those gowns worn, which wish will, I hope, at some future time be fulfilled. . . . I look forward eagerly to the monthly Journal—I think it is splendid, and enjoy reading every word of it."

Miss Emily F. Walters wrote: "Thank you very much for my Diploma. I think it is a splendid bit of work. I shall prize it all my life."

"I think all nurses should strive to obtain it, and shall do my utmost to induce all that I know to do so."

"I wish to tender my sincere thanks to all those who have been instrumental in giving me such a privilege. I wish the College every possible success."

### The Obligation.

To quote Miss E. Horton of Glasgow, after having taken the solemn Obligation she wrote:—

"I for one am glad this Rule was made of taking what is very near the Oath of Hippocrates. Perhaps in the not very distant future it will become the general custom, if all our Fellows and Members think of it, and hope for it, for a ceremony of this nature to round off a nurse's training. Surely then nurses would go out into the world with some higher idea than merely earning their living—important as that is. Such a vow taken seriously and honestly must leave its mark on a woman's outlook and dealings with her fellow humans."

### Registered and Degraded under wrong rule by General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Further correspondence between Miss E. T. Hayward and Miss Marian S. Riddell, Registrar, General Nursing Council, was before the Council. Registered under Rule 9 (1) (g), Miss E. T. Hayward was not eligible for membership of the British College of Nurses; but upon investigating her professional training and credentials it

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)