

Registered Nurses for self-determination, and the approval of Labour politicians of their justifiable aspirations.

THE SECRETARIAT.

It was announced that Miss Hale would take up her duties on February 1st, and she was present at the Meeting by invitation. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Fenwick for conducting the work of the Office since the foundation of the College.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council should be held on Saturday, February 26th, at 3 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

DIPLOMA DAY.

Since the Meeting of the Council the date of Diploma Day has been fixed for Friday, April 29th. Two Halls at the Church House, Westminster, have been secured, in which to hold the Ceremony, and further arrangements will be announced in our March issue. Fellows and Members are earnestly invited to note the date and to make every effort to attend what in years to come must rank as an outstanding occasion in Nursing History.

The nurses of the twentieth century have been privileged to live in stirring times in regard to the development of their profession. There have been great moments for those working for the establishment of standards of nursing education.

Those, for instance, when Lord Amptill presented our Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Lords, and successfully carried it through all its stages.

Nor will nursing pioneers ever forget the thrill with which they heard that Major (now Sir Richard) Barnett had won a foremost place in the ballot, and would use the opportunity to bring in the Nurses' Registration Bill. Again there was the supreme moment when we heard the Royal Assent given in the House of Lords to the Government Bill, and yet another when we held the first State Register of Nurses in our hands.

Now that these foundations have been well and truly laid real progress can be made.

The first presentation of Diplomas by the British College of Nurses will be one of those occasions which we shall keep in the storehouse of other fragrant memories.

THE SCROLL OF HONOUR.

We hope in our next issue to describe the Diploma, and to give the histories of those whose names are inscribed in the Scroll of Honour with which it is encircled.

OBLIGATION DATES.

The President and certain members of the Council of the British College of Nurses will attend at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1., on Friday, February 11th; Tuesday, February 15th; and Thursday, February 24th, between the hours of 2.30 and 5 p.m. to obligate Fellows and Members.

Those Fellows and Members who reside in or near London are asked to endeavour to attend on one of these dates, so that their Diplomas may be inscribed and ready for presentation on April 29th. The Secretary will be obliged by a postcard notifying this intention.

A DELIGHTFUL REUNION.

After the Council Meeting a very pleasant informal Dinner took place in a private room at Genarro's Restaurant, New Compton Street, W.C., at which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was the Guest of Honour, the occasion being her seventieth birthday. It was all very gay and happy, and the dinner was a triumph of the chef's art, concluding with dainty baskets made of barley sugar, and filled with delectable confiserie.

There were no set speeches. Miss S. A. Villiers, who was in the chair, gave just the right note in stating the reason for the Dinner, and announcing letters and telegrams from absent friends. Mrs. Lancelot Andrews voiced the affection and gratitude of Mrs. Fenwick's old pupils at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Miss Cochrane, remarking that brevity seemed the order of the evening, wished Mrs. Fenwick "many, many years to sit in the sun of our affection and esteem." Miss M. Breay spoke a word of appreciation of Mrs. Fenwick's fearless, devoted, and far-reaching work and vision as Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Miss Isabel Macdonald reminded those present that their guest had founded the first organisation of nurses in the world, and presented a basket of exquisite crimson roses and pink tulips. Miss Carson Rae spoke on behalf of friends in Ireland, and the presence of Miss Meyboom, of the Dutch Nurses' Association, was particularly welcome. Mrs. Fenwick was, she said, honoured not only in her own country but throughout the International Nursing World. Her example and her spirit would live in the future.

Mrs. Fenwick, in response, expressed her sense of the privilege it had been to work for the evolution of Nursing, and to have had the co-operation of so fine a comrade as that fine Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Isla Stewart, with her splendid mentality and greatness of heart. The whole history of the evolution and aspirations of the Nursing Profession and of the organisation of Nurses would be found in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and she was perfectly certain she had not wasted her time in placing these on record.

She spoke of her pleasure at the presence of Miss Meyboom, as one of the great International Sisterhood, whose desire was to see the nations of the world healthy and happy.

Alluding to the Conference on Nursing at Caxton Hall on the previous day, Mrs. Fenwick said that she thought it extraordinarily satisfactory. From start to finish every one on the platform understood the basic principles for which we were fighting, and were prepared to fight. Evolution all over the world was levelling up the people, and the progressive section of the Nursing Profession were on the crest of the wave. They might have wealth, power and personal influence against them, but these were of no value whatever if confronted with the courage to go quietly on from day to day, to stand up to everything that was wrong.

Inspired by those principles the British College of Nurses was going to be a predominating influence in the Nursing Profession. She was perfectly certain that it was going to be the great vocational association foreshadowed at the Caxton Hall Conference on the previous day, for reason, right, and courage carried all before them.

M. B.

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