

business, and on the motion of Miss H. L. Pearse, seconded by Mrs. Strong, a very cordial vote of thanks was tendered to him by acclamation, for which Dr. Fenwick expressed his thanks and withdrew.

DIPLOMA DAY.

The arrangements for Diploma Day in the Hoare Memorial Hall at the Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, to take place on April 29th, were then considered, and it was decided to place them in the hands of the Social Schemes Committee.

It was decided to announce that it will be necessary for all those who wish to attend this historical function to notify the Secretary of their intention to do so by April 1st, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

The form of writing to be used in inscribing the Diplomas was selected.

MEETINGS FOR HOSPITAL NURSING STAFFS.

It was reported that in reply to the President's letter to Matrons of Hospitals offering to send a representative to speak to a meeting of nurses on the endowment and aims of the College that replies had been received in the following sense:—

Accepted	2
Refused by Committee .. .	1
Refused by Matron .. .	2
Not accepted	4
Referred	1
	—
	10

Leaving no reply from 33 Matrons.

OBLIGATIONS.

Miss Bushby raised the question of obligating by proxy, and the Chairman considered that though this could not be done Fellows and Members prevented by distance from London from attending at the Office might take the Obligation before a Commissioner for Oaths, or a Justice of the Peace, and this was approved.

SCHEMES OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

The President reminded the Council that the standard of Professional Education to be required of Fellows and Members after the expiration of the Period of Grace had still to be considered. She thought that a Conference—perhaps several Conferences—of those interested would be necessary before this was decided, and that expressions of opinion should be invited both as to preliminary and post-graduate courses. It was further agreed to instruct the Education and Examination Committee to consider schemes of professional Education, including Mental Nursing, and to submit a report to the Council.

A meeting of the Education and Examination Committee was fixed for March 16th at 5.15 p.m., and of the next Meeting of the Council for March 26th, at 3 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We hope Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses noted our announcement last month that Diploma Day, when Diplomas will be presented to Foundation Fellows and Members, takes place at the Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House, Westminster, S.W., on the afternoon of April 29th.

All Fellows and Members who intend to be present on this date to receive their Diplomas, must notify the Secretary, The British College of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, by April 1st, so that they can be prepared.

OBLIGATION DATES.

We hope that all Fellows and Members who are able will call at the temporary Offices, 431, Oxford Street, W.1, to take the Obligation, and sign the College Roll. In order that it may be easy for as many as possible to do so, arrangements can be made for any Fellow or Member to obligate any afternoon except Saturdays during the month of March, between the hours of 2.30 and 5 p.m., by previous notice to the Secretary.

HOSPITALITY.

The Secretary will be pleased to receive offers of hospitality for Fellows and Members coming from a distance if any of their colleagues are able to offer it, addressed to her at 431, Oxford Street, W.1.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES AND THE MATRON OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

We print below the correspondence between the Council of the College and the Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital to which reference is made on page 55.

Letter from President of Council B.C.N. to Miss Lloyd Still on its behalf.

The British College of Nurses,
431, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

January 10th, 1927.

DEAR MADAM,—I recently forwarded to you information notifying the munificent gift of £100,000 from an anonymous donor for the benefit of registered nurses, to found a College of Nurses, to be administered by themselves.

My Council will esteem it a favour if you will inform me if a representative of the College may address a meeting of the nursing staff at St. Thomas's Hospital to lay before them the aims of the British College of Nurses, so that they may have the opportunity of availing themselves of its benefits if they choose.

Anticipating a favourable reply, I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) ETHEL G. FENWICK,

President.

The Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

Reply from Miss Lloyd Still.

St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.1.

January 14th, 1927.

DEAR MADAM,—In answer to your letter of January 10th, and your request to discuss with the nursing staff the new organisation known as the British College of Nurses, I would suggest that discussion can only be possible when that body has proved its need and worth. In its present nebulous condition, its discussion would only cause grave confusion and misunderstanding in the minds of young nurses, when even those who have experience in the unhappy politics of the nursing world fail to grasp what need it meets in the development of the nursing profession.

As one who has ever striven to advance the professional status and education of nurses and sought to promote unity in the nursing body for the best development of those purposes, I fail to see how this new venture will further the cause, when there already exists an institution—the College of Nursing—devoted to similar aims, which in its earnest endeavours during the past ten years to improve the conditions, has already accomplished much in promoting the objects we have at heart.

Therefore, would it be out of place here to suggest that this new organisation should seek to combine with the College of Nursing so that, working towards the same end, the united efforts may more rapidly bring to fruition the projects we have in view and maintain at its highest and best the prestige of British Nursing?

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. LLOYD STILL,

Matron.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N.

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