

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in spite of repeated protests on the part of the British College of Nurses, have definitely refused to remove the name of a woman guilty of theft, from the State Register, and have thereby repudiated their responsibility towards the guiltless State Registered Nurses, as well as the sick public. They also repudiate the undoubted right of these Nurses to protest against their wrong action. For what purpose are they there? "J' accuse," primarily, the Nurse members of the G.N.C. (with one notable exception—Miss Bushby) in this connection, who have shown themselves unworthy of the confidence reposed in them by the electors who placed them in office.

The British College of Nurses has not yet been in existence a year, and yet the Council have given abundant proof of their sense of responsibility towards the Fellows and Members, who may confidently rely upon their justice and wise administration, as guardians of their rights. I desire, Madam President, to thank the Council for their unsuccessful efforts in relation to the matter of E. Shand, and also for all the work they have already accomplished in the best interests of the Nurses. The British College of Nurses is the fruition of our hopes and aspirations. Long may it live.

Yours faithfully,
BEATRICE KENT, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

"Dunkirk,"
344, Camden Road,
Holloway, N. 7.

A Welcome Gift.

A letter was read from Miss Edith E. Ellis, F.B.C.N., of Sheffield, expressing her pleasure and pride in being permitted to donate a regulation brass plate for the door of the new Headquarters, at 39, Portland Place, W., and asking that the account might be sent to her.

It was agreed to thank Miss Ellis for a welcome and useful gift.

Thanks and Appreciation.

A letter was read from Miss Alice S. Marshall, Matron, London Temperance Hospital, conveying to the Council "our thanks and appreciation for the very interesting address your representative, Mrs. Andrews, gave to us." Miss Marshall to be thanked for her kind letter.

South Australia Interested.

A letter from Miss Winifred Mullaney, Matron, and Secretary R.B.N.A., South Australian Branch, expressing great interest in the British College of Nurses, enclosing cuttings of publicity given by the press, and asking for further information and Forms of Application.

The Council received with gratification this communication, to which the Secretary had already replied.

Result of Broken Pledge.

A letter from Mrs. Florence E. Pool (née Emery) of Canada, deploring her inability to join the College owing to the fact that she could not now register in England, as she had relied on the pledge given to her as a member of the College of Nursing, Ltd., that she would be registered automatically when the Nurses' Registration Bill was passed.

Mrs. Pool was to be advised to register in Canada, and thus make herself eligible for reciprocal registration in England.

Election of Fellows and Members.

A satisfactory number of Applications for Fellowship and Membership were considered, and all were elected.

Report of the Social Schemes Committee.

The Social Schemes Committee presented a report of a Meeting held on March 17th, at which Miss Isabel Macdonald presided. The following arrangements for Diploma Day (April 29th) have been made:—The Hoare

Memorial Hall, at the Church House, Westminster has been secured for the Ceremony, at which the Council will for the first time wear their beautiful robes of black satin, faced and lined with petunia satin, and black velvet hats. The small Hall has been secured for tea at the termination of the Meeting. A Canon of Westminster, it is hoped, will open the meeting with prayer, speakers were suggested and agreed, and the President in a short address will speak on the four Watchwords of the College: Knowledge, Service, Charity and Honour.

It was agreed to invite representatives of certain organisations to be present.

The Report announced that a Reception will be held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, at 8.30 p.m., and that the President of the Royal Corporation, Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., has graciously signified her intention to be present. It was agreed that she should be received by the President and Council of the College, and that a bouquet be presented to her by Miss Dorothy K. Graham, the youngest member of the Council.

A light supper will be provided and appropriate guests invited. It was agreed that invitation cards should be sent out for the Reception to Fellows and Members who are to receive their Diplomas on April 29th, to be answered by a date arranged, and that tickets should be presented on arrival.

Interim Report from the Education and Examination Committee.

In reference to the Report of the Education and Examination Committee the President expressed the view that the work of the Council in connection with Nursing Education should be to supplement the work of the General Nursing Council, and might provide facilities for Preliminary Training before probationers entered the hospitals, and special courses for those who desired to supplement their general training after registration.

The Council could undertake no more useful work for the Nursing Schools and the community than to do all in its power to encourage well-educated, suitable girls to adopt nursing as their profession.

Miss Alice Reeves (Dublin) described the organization of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses which organised theoretical teaching for probationers throughout their training, and she thought that competition between the various nurse training schools was good. She also advocated that a better class of women should be encouraged to enter hospitals for training.

Miss Cochrane expressed the opinion that if classes for Preliminary Instruction could be arranged for well-educated girls there would be no difficulty in placing the students who completed it.

An interesting discussion ensued as to post graduate courses, and a number of suggestions made were referred to the Education and Examination Committee for consideration and report.

Counsel's Opinion on Legal Position of Fellow.

The President read Counsel's opinion which had been obtained for Sister M. C. Trevor, F.B.C.N. She explained that Sister Trevor engaged for a "septic throat" case, contracted scarlet fever from the little patient within 48 hours, and together with the child, her mother, sister, and nurse of the patient was removed to Watford

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)