

through the Treasurer, to recommend the Council to set aside a sum of £2,000 annually to form and endow the Pension Fund, which after 1936 will enable the College to give two Pensions each year of £50 to Fellows for life, and two Pensions each year to Members of £25 for life. It was estimated that in 50 years the College would have, in invested Pension Funds, more than £140,000, and be giving 150 pensions.

It was unanimously agreed to recommend that the Pensions should be awarded by the Council after full and sufficient scrutiny.

The Trustees recommended that a condition of the grant of a Pension should be that every applicant should be able to prove that she had by thrift and insurance, however small, endeavoured to make some provision for her old age, and against sickness and accident, and this was agreed.

The Council was unanimously of the opinion that Fellows and Members should realise that in endowing Pensions upon a sound financial basis, they could as a body feel that the less fortunate in their ranks would receive sympathetic assistance if in need.

#### **The Petition for a Royal Charter by the College of Nursing, Ltd.**

On the announcement in the press that the College of Nursing, Ltd., intended to apply for a Royal Charter of Incorporation, the President reported the action taken in connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association, the only Nurses' Organisation incorporated by Royal Charter with the Prefix Royal, and the recommendation that the application should be opposed.

It was agreed that the British College of Nurses should oppose the Petition of the College of Nursing, Ltd., as it acted in the name of the Nursing Profession, the executive power and policy being retained largely in the hands of wealthy and socially influential members of the laity, and the medical profession, and had exercised such power on several occasions to the serious injury of the Nursing Profession as a whole. The Finance Committee recommended that £500 should be set aside for the necessary expenses to which the Council agreed.

#### **Subscriptions, 1927.**

It was agreed that subscriptions of Fellows and Members paid on and after December 1st, 1926, should be valid for the period December 18th, 1926, to December 31st, 1927, inclusive.

#### **Report of the Sub-Committee on Robes, Diplomas, Seal, and Bye-Laws.**

The Report of the above Sub-Committee on the Draft Bye-Laws was considered and approved. The remaining Bye-Laws were then considered, and it was agreed that the amendments approved should be incorporated in the Draft.

#### **Gift to Middlesex Hospital.**

The President reported the valuable and charming gift to the Middlesex Hospital by Dr. W. Essex Wynter, formerly Senior Physician of the Hospital, for the benefit of retired members of the Nursing Staff of that hospital, consisting of the beautiful Manor House at Newbury, in which he and his wife at present reside, when their need for it has passed, and also of 16 sixteenth century cottages, together with an endowment fund for the maintenance and upkeep of the property.

It was resolved to send a message of congratulation on this delightful gift to the Matron and Nursing Staff of the Middlesex Hospital.

#### **Next Meeting of Council.**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on January 29th, 1927. The Meeting then terminated.

#### **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, to obligate Fellows and Members on the following dates in January:—

Tuesday, January 11th; Friday, January 14th; Tuesday January 18th; Saturday, January 22nd; and Monday, January 31st, between the hours of 2.30 and 5 p.m.

#### **THE CONSEQUENCE OF AN UNFULFILLED PLEDGE.**

We are receiving numbers of letters from nurses wishful to join the B.C.N., who we regret are ineligible because their names are not on the State Register. A number of these correspondents have failed to pay their Retention Fee. To these we reply urging them to do so. Others have been misguided in believing that as they are on the College of Nursing Register, they were automatically placed on the State Register—according to pledge—and now find the term of grace has long passed, and that they are not registered by the G.N.C., and are therefore not eligible to join the British College of Nurses. One wonders if by some means justice cannot be obtained for these unfortunate nurses.

State Registration is becoming more and more recognised by public authorities, and indispensable to nurses, every day, and if privileges can be granted to persons who do not deserve them, as under Rule I (1) (g), surely something can be done for those who do.

#### **THE SECRETARY ELECT.**

Before Miss G. R. Hale left The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital she was the recipient of a number of gifts, and of many expressions of affection and goodwill.

The Secretary, Miss Imogen Murphy, wrote:—"Whatever the new Matron may be capable of, she could not possibly be able to promote greater happiness and kindness in all the human relationships of the Hospital. We know, and grieve to know, that we are not only losing our Matron, but the presence of a dear and valued friend."

In enclosing a cheque voted by the Board, Miss Murphy wrote:—"They do not consider it an adequate recognition of your work, but you will know how little elastic our finances are, and will readily, as you always do, read into the gift all the affection and gratitude it comes with."

The present Nursing Staff, with some of the past, presented a cheque. "To our dear Matron, with love and all best wishes for her future happiness and success from us all."

The Maids gave a folding-up work basket, and the Patients' League are giving an easy chair.

Miss Hale had a great send off, half the staff of the hospital accompanying her to the station. She is now looking forward with the greatest pleasure to her new work.

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