

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Twenty-second Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W., on Saturday, May 19th, at 3 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following Members of the Council were present:—Miss M. Breay and Miss H. L. Pearse, Vice-Presidents; Miss Mary G. Allbutt, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Mary S. Cockrane, R.R.C., Miss I. Macdonald, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Mrs. Strong, and Miss S. A. Villiers Fellows; and Miss E. J. Haswell, Member.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., the Minutes were confirmed.

Business arising from the Minutes.

Miss Villiers and Miss Allbutt had consented to act on the Consultative Committee.

The Private Nursing Conference.

The Report of the Conference held at 39, Portland Place, W., on the Conditions of Private Nursing, on May 4th, was presented.

The President presided and Miss Isabel Macdonald opened the discussion and proposed the following Resolution:—

“That the Meeting urges upon Organisations supplying Nurses for the care of the sick in private houses—

- (a) That they should adopt a minimum fee of £4 4s. per week for the services of Private Nurses.
- (b) And that they should take into consideration a Scheme of Insurance to which the public can subscribe, to enable them to be supplied with efficient Nurses in private houses during sickness.”

Representatives from the following organisations were present:—

The Council of the British College of Nurses, the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Registered Nurses' Association, the Nurses' Co-operation, Langham Street, W., the Society of Chartered Nurses, University College Hospital, the Duchess Nursing Home, the Registered Nurses' Bureau, Galen House, Guildford, and many Private Nurses.

With the exception of University College Hospital none of the Hospitals with Private Nursing Staffs attached sent representatives, which was regretted, as it is necessary that the conditions of Private Nursing should be improved, especially in London.

Miss Macdonald, in proposing the Resolution on the Agenda, said if nothing materialised at once from the Conference, a discussion must do good. At present there was no agreement as to a minimum weekly fee as there was in Australia and elsewhere; every organisation charged what it chose, from £1 1s. to £4 4s. She advocated co-operation on educational and economic standards. She strongly urged that a minimum fee of £4 4s. should be agreed, and that there should be an extra charge for night duty.

The latter half of the Resolution dealt with the interests of the patients who could not afford the suggested fee. At present Insurance Societies did not deal with this class of business.

Mrs. Paul, in seconding the Resolution, agreed that Private Nurses should adopt the fee of £4 4s. She thought

there were too many Private Nurses, and that fewer Probationers and more trained Nurses should be employed in hospital wards. With regard to Insurance it must come from above and not from below.

In the discussion which followed Miss Alice Cattell considered that the public were quite able to pay the fee of £4 4s.

Miss F. Dunne endorsed the minimum fee of £4 4s. and considered all the items of expenditure, including travelling, etc., should be included in the total amount and not paid separately.

Miss H. L. Pearse advocated Insurance for Sickness, and emphasised the necessity of special provision for Private Nursing.

Miss Bushby advocated post-graduate opportunities in hospitals for Nurses in private practice.

After further discussion, the Chairman, in summing up, approved co-operation to decide a minimum fee, but recognised that many patients could not pay the £4 4s., the necessary fee to enable Private Nurses on the co-operative system to provide for old age. She advocated special training to enable Nurses to qualify for their duties in private houses which were of an exceedingly responsible nature. She approved of the public making provision for a Private Nurse during sickness at home, by some system of insurance. It was a difficult question, but like other difficulties could be overcome.

When put to the meeting from the Chair the Resolution was passed in its entirety *nem. con.*

It was agreed that the Resolution should be sent out with an explanatory letter to large London Hospitals and Co-operations which supply Nurses to the public, to invite their co-operation in the organisation of a better Private Nursing service and economic security for Private Nurses.

Mrs. Paul made the suggestion that it would be advisable for the British College of Nurses to work for compulsory State Registration of Nurses.

The Report was adopted.

Correspondence.

Several letters of great interest to the Nursing Profession were duly considered and a course of action decided upon.

Thanks for Diplomas.

Miss C. McGilvray, Dunbar: “It really is something to be proud of, and I think the names of pioneers round the border such a splendid idea.”

Miss Edith M. F. Pritchard, London: “It is indeed a handsome possession. I shall always treasure it.”

Miss G. B. Macvitie, Rome: “I rejoice to have it.”

Miss A. Cathcart, Orrell: “It really is very beautiful, needless to say I am proud of it and shall always endeavour to live up to the noble ideals of the profession, and strive to follow the example of the noble women inscribed thereon.”

Miss H. M. Southcombe, South Australia: “I am so very proud to possess it, and many thanks for sending it so carefully. I think it so appropriate to have the names of the splendid women in the Nursing World perpetuated, they remind us of the younger generation of what we may achieve some day. Wishing the College success.”

Miss E. S. Davidson, C.B.E., R.R.C., Adelaide, South

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