

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The twenty-third Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W., on Saturday, June 23rd, 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, Mrs. Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Mary S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, 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.

Resolution of Condolence to Miss E. L. Macaulay.

Before the Business on the Agenda was considered the President said she wished from the Chair to propose a very sincere and heartfelt message of sympathy with Miss E. L. Macaulay, a devoted member of the Council, on the terrible loss sustained by her and her family in their tragic bereavement—by the murder of her two sisters. The President invited the Council to notify their sympathy by a rising vote. The Members of the Council then rose. It was agreed to forward to Miss Macaulay a letter of condolence.

Business Arising from Minutes. The Private Nursing Conference.

It was reported that 33 institutions employing Private Nurses had been communicated with, and a copy of the Resolutions adopted at the Conference sent to them for consideration.

From the Society of Chartered Nurses, and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, replies had been received notifying that they charged £4. 4s. 0d. per week for private nurses' services. The Resolutions were receiving the attention of various organisations, and it is hoped several will after consideration help to stabilise the fee—as has been done in Australia and elsewhere.

Grants for Sister Tutors.

Names were notified of Applicants for grants to train as Sister Tutors, but as these applications may be sent to the Secretary until July 18th, they will be considered later.

Grants for Montreal Congress, 1929.

Six applications were notified. Such applications may be sent to the Secretary until November 30th, after which date the three most suitable candidates will be selected.

Correspondence.

Letter from Mrs. Strong.

17, Woodburn Terrace,
Edinburgh.

DEAR MISS HALE,

I much regret to miss this, my last, opportunity of sitting at the Council Meeting of the B.C.N., on the 23rd June. I am leaving home on the 3rd July for three months, and do not wish the fatigue of two journeys to London.

I particularly want to thank Dr. Bedford Fenwick for giving me the pleasure of being one of the Council, and witnessing the rapid growth of the College from its

inception. From the past I think one may safely prophesy a great future for its usefulness to nurses, being a protection to them in every sense of the word, and a great educational centre.

With every good wish,
Sincerely yours,

REBECCA STRONG.

This letter was received with pleasure and regret; sincere regret because Mrs. Strong's term of office as a Councillor of the B.C.N. terminates this month, and it was unanimously agreed to send her a warm expression of thanks from her colleagues for her loyal support during the past two years in helping them to lay the sure foundations of future success, and of their sense of the great personal loss which her absence from the Council occasions.

It was proposed from the Chair, and agreed, that Mrs. Strong should be invited to accept the office of Consul-General for Scotland.

The Registration of Foreigners by the General Nursing Council.

In reply to a communication to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, asking under what authority it had registered nurses trained in foreign countries, as the Nurses' Registration Act only provides for the registration of nurses trained in "the United Kingdom," or in "His Majesty's Dominions," the Registrar, Miss M. S. Riddell, replied:—

"I am instructed to inform you that in 1922 the Council took legal opinion as to whether they had the power to register nurses trained in hospitals abroad. The opinion of the legal adviser was that the Council had the power for purposes of registration under Section 3 (2) (c) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919. . . and that Section 6 did not operate to prevent the Council from accepting evidence of training in a hospital abroad, if they were satisfied that the standard of such training was equal to the standard of the training accepted in England for the purposes of paragraph (c).

"Such applications for registration were accepted only during the period of grace for registration without examination."

The Council of the British College of Nurses do not agree with this legal interpretation of the Nurses Registration Act, which was not advanced by the Law Officers of the Crown, as the United States of America, Brazil, and Holland, in which countries the aforesaid nurses were trained, do not form part of "His Majesty's Dominions."

The President pointed out that the action of the General Nursing Council in this connection had been *ultra vires*, as they had no legal power whatever to exercise jurisdiction over standards of nurse-training in foreign countries under an English Act of Parliament, and that point of argument might be sent to the General Nursing Council to prevent such action in the future.

The Departmental Committee to Consider the Working of the Midwives Acts, 1902-1926.

The correspondence with the Ministry of Health on the omission to place a Registered Nurse Midwife on the Departmental Committee to consider the Working of the Midwives Acts, 1902-1926, was further considered.

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