

The personnel of this Committee includes one Midwife only, together with twelve representatives of the laity and medical profession, but no Registered Nurse.

The British College of Nurses had addressed the Minister of Health on the matter as follows:—

"The Council of the British College of Nurses would respectfully draw your attention to the fact that no Registered Nurse has been placed on the Departmental Committee, notwithstanding the fact that thousands of Registered Nurses now add to their qualifications the Certificates of the Central Midwives Board, a qualification demanded by various organisations supplying Registered Nurses at home and abroad.

"My Council feel very strongly that a thoroughly qualified Registered Nurse, holding the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, would add to the efficiency of the Departmental Committee, and hope that you will be good enough to consider its recommendation in this particular."

The following reply was received from the Ministry of Health:—

"MADAM,—In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, relating to the Departmental Committee appointed to consider the working of the Midwives Acts, 1902–1926, I am directed by the Minister of Health to inform you that the point mentioned in your letter has already been carefully considered, but as it was contemplated that registered nurses would be desirous of giving evidence before the Committee and would have every opportunity of expressing their views upon the subject of the inquiry, it was decided that it would be preferable not to include a registered nurse among the members of the Committee.

"I am, Madam

"Your obedient Servant,

"Z. L. PUXLEY."

To which the following reply in part was sent:—

"I much regret to note that it has been decided that the Profession of Nursing is not to be represented upon the Departmental Committee to consider the working of the Midwives Acts, 1902–1926, by the Minister of Health, as without trained nursing experience a safe standard of efficiency for Midwives is impossible. So serious an omission in the Constitution of the Committee is this considered by a large number of Registered Nurses, that your letter will be placed before the next Meeting of the Council for further consideration and decision as to what steps can be taken in the interests of mothers and their infants in this connection."

Opinion was unanimous that the decision of the Minister of Health to fail to recognise the value of Nursing opinion on the Departmental Committee was a very serious omission and greatly to be deplored; that representation was required to weigh a nurse's evidence when placed before the Committee, to advance such opinion in preparing the Report, and that to offer evidence before a Committee upon which there was not one nursing expert was waste of time.

The Council decided to give publicity to their point of view, as the constant assumption of responsibility or expert nursing opinion by members of the laity was

exceedingly injurious, both in the interests of the public and of the Nursing Profession.

Legal Protection.

Very satisfactory results were reported in consequence of legal advice and help to Fellows, and a Sub-Committee composed of Mrs. Andrews, Miss Allbutt and Miss Villiers was appointed to consider necessary nursing reform in connection with the Poor Laws, which were to receive the consideration of Parliament in the near future.

A large number of letters from Members at home and abroad were considered, and replies agreed.

Thanks for Diplomas.

Miss Ethel Nightingale writes from Mt. Gambier: "I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of Diploma and very proud to possess it. It is beautifully designed and very appropriate. Some day I hope to be able to see the beautiful College, which I have had described to me by two nurses from Mt. Gambier, who have recently returned from a trip abroad."

Miss Emily Lees, St. Helens: "I think the design a very beautiful one throughout."

Miss Hilda Marshall, Newcastle-on-Tyne: "I am very proud to be a Fellow of the British College of Nurses, and I shall do all in my power to help others to become Fellows or Members. During my visit to London it was a great pleasure to visit the College and to be made so welcome by everyone, and I hope I may one day be able to take advantage of all that is provided by the College."

Miss Elsie Wood, Paisley: "Many thanks for my Diploma. It is very beautiful and symbolical of the thoughts and deeds bestowed upon the nursing world by the members of the Council, who have succeeded, after struggling for so many years in elevating our profession to a standard that we can work up to with pride. I feel greatly privileged in having been admitted to the College, and do appreciate the carefully chosen details which are so perfectly carried out."

Miss S. C. Goodbody, London: "Thanks for beautiful Diploma. . . I will always endeavour to live up to its ideals of our profession."

Miss M. A. Dolling, Taunton: "Thank you so much for sending my Diploma of Fellowship. I had no idea it was to be so beautiful. It is most unique! It is most appropriate to have the names of such splendid women inscribed thereon, especially in these days when we are trying hard to raise the status of the Nursing Profession, and to maintain its high ideals."

Miss Rosalind R. E. Stow, Adelaide, S.A.: "It is a great honour to be a Foundation Fellow of the British College of Nurses. I feel sure the Australian Fellows and Members will try their utmost to live up to the high standard set before us. The beautiful Diploma arrived last month. Wishing the College and its Fellows and Members all success."

Miss Edith M. Bottrill, Adelaide, S.A.: "Very pleased to receive my Diploma. . . The JOURNALS provide very interesting articles and are much appreciated."

Miss A. M. Innes, Santa Barbara, Cal.: "My Diploma

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