

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Fellows and Members of The British College of Nurses are asked to take Special Notice that the date of the Annual General Meeting is July 11th at 3 p.m. The Second Annual Report and the Financial Report will be presented and there will be a Presentation of the first Certificates awarded after examination by the College. For the first time it will be held at the Headquarters of the College, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, will preside.

RECEPTION.

The Meeting will be followed by a Reception by the President and Council in their Robes of Office from 4.30—6.30 p.m. Tea and coffee will be served, and the College will be open for inspection, so that Fellows, Members, and their friends who have not had the opportunity of seeing the beautiful Headquarters may be able to do so.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

It is with pleasure that the Council of the College note the interest which is being taken in its work by members of the Nursing Profession Overseas, both in our own Dominions and in Foreign Countries. During the last few weeks it has received visits from distinguished nurses from Canada, India, America, Japan, Sweden and Denmark, all of whom have expressed delight with our arrangements, and, after inquiry, have approved the principles upon which the work of the College is founded.

FIXTURES FOR JULY.

July 10th.—Annual Dinner, Hotel Metropole. 7.45 for 8 p.m.

July 11th.—Annual Meeting of Fellows and Members at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 3 p.m. Reception, and Headquarters on view, 4.30—6.30 p.m.

July 21st.—Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2 p.m.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.**Hospital Officers in the Prison Service.**

Mr. Ernest Brown asked the Home Secretary, in the House of Commons on June 14th, the number of hospital officers, male and female, in the prison service; how many in each case were registered by the General Nursing Council as ordinary nurses or as mental nurses; and at what prisons, if any, were hospital principal officers appointed who had not qualified for State Registration.

Sir William Joynson-Hicks replied: There are 130 men hospital officers and 10 women hospital officers in the prison service; of the men, 38 are registered by the General Nursing Council as nurses, 9 as mental nurses, and 6 are registered under both heads; none of the women are registered. There are, however, 33 fully trained women nurses employed in the prison service, all of whom are State registered, 31 being on the general register and 2 on the register of mental nurses. At the following prisons the hospital principal officer is not registered: Men—Birmingham, Brixton, Liverpool, Manchester, Parkhurst, Wandsworth, Wormwood Scrubs. Women: Liverpool, Manchester, and Portland Borstal Institution.

INSURANCE FOR NURSES.**Scheme Approved by the Council of the British College of Nurses.**

This is a subject in which it is becoming increasingly evident that the members of the Nursing profession should take a personal interest; because it appears that comparatively few of them have hitherto given much thought to the matter: partly, perhaps, because of their over-busy lives, but partly, also, because they have never realised the great advantages of the system to themselves.

Within the last hundred years, insurance in many forms has become a matter not only of personal, but of national importance; and it has grown, therefore, to an ever increasing extent in every department of mercantile and social life. For thousands of years nations have insured against war by maintaining armies and fleets. For hundreds of years merchants have insured themselves against losses in trade, until the system has now spread to every detail of the business world. For over two hundred years insurance against damage done by fire has been regarded as a necessity by every prudent householder; and for more than a century foresighted husbands have insured their lives, in order to make provision for their widows and families at their death. Great Insurance Companies have developed the system in many directions, to the incalculable advantage of the whole community. Such companies have accumulated and invested many millions of reserve funds, so that those who insure with them are certain of absolute security in obtaining the benefits for which they pay.

Nurses, therefore, who insure wisely are only adopting a plan which is both prudent and a most profitable method of investing their savings. The old-fashioned system of keeping the saved-up money in a stocking is as useless and out-of-date now as the Talent which was buried in the ground. It did nothing, and earned nothing, and was always liable to be stolen. On the other hand, the majority of people can only afford to save small amounts, and they are faced with the difficulty that small sums of money are very difficult to invest in order to produce a fair rate of interest. This is where the great insurance companies come in; because, by accumulating hundreds of such small amounts from small subscribers, they are able to take advantage of the great openings which exist for the investment of large amounts, and to return, therefore, to their many subscribers a rate of interest which the latter could not obtain for themselves.

In these very difficult times of financial stringency, it is the clear duty of every one to save as much as possible from their income each year; and there is no question that for those with small incomes insurance schemes, suited to their several needs, give the safest and most profitable method of using such savings. Fellows and Members, by their small subscriptions to the British College of Nurses, not only gain professional prestige, valuable to them individually, but also obtain the equally valuable advantages of mutual professional and personal assistance in Legal Protection, in expert business advice, in benevolent aid, in educational Scholarships and Grants, and above all, in that union which gives strength to the weakest among them. The Council has, as part of its work, carefully investigated the systems of insurance offered by the leading companies in this country. Needless to say, these differ in some particulars, and even, to some extent, in the charges made for the different benefits.

The Council feels very strongly that every nurse should insure herself, in the first place, against Sickness and Accident, because either of these may occur to anyone, at any moment, and may perhaps disable the sufferer from earning her livelihood for some time, during which time, of course, her ordinary living expenses have to be met as usual.

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