

Private Nursing, at which representatives of the following institutions were present as well as many private nurses:—

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, and Galen House, Guildford.

The following Resolution, proposed by Miss Isabel Macdonald, F.B.C.N., was, after discussion, carried *nem con.*

"That this 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."

A copy of this Resolution was widely circulated to those interested and to the Press.

Scheme of Insurance for Fellows and Members.

Schemes of Insurance have been carefully chosen, which will provide Fellows and Members who take out the policies recommended with Deferred Annuities, at a certain age, with the option of the payment of a capital sum, and other advantages on favourable terms, including provision for Sickness and Accident.

LEGAL PROTECTION.

The College has founded a Defence Fund by means of which its Fellows and Members are legally advised and in suitable cases protected.

Already this Branch of the work of the College has been of proved usefulness to Fellows and Members who have applied for its advice, and in two instances good appointments have been retained which, without legal advice, might have been terminated.

Further, as it becomes known that Fellows and Members have the support of a powerful professional organisation, willing, and financially able, to protect their legal rights, that fact alone will often prevent an infringement of those rights.

SOCIAL AND BENEVOLENT HELP.

Pension Fund.

It has also founded a Pension Fund for Fellows and Members in old age and adversity, by setting aside and investing each year a capital sum from which, after seven years' time (in 1935), two Life Pensions will be awarded each year, one of £52 a year for a Fellow, and one of £26 a year for a Member.

LEGISLATION.

The Council has carefully watched all proposed legislation in Parliament likely to affect Nursing and Nurses, in order to promote the interests of the community and the Nursing Profession, and, should it be necessary, to take action in regard to any Bill which might prejudice these interests.

The Election of the Registered Nurses on the General Nursing Council.

The Council of the British College of Nurses placed on record its unanimous disapprobation of the acceptance by a joint committee of three nurses' organisations, of a large sum of money from a lay member of the Council of the College of Nursing for the purpose of financing the candidature of its nominees for seats on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in the 1927 Election of Direct Representatives.

The Council was of opinion that this was unethical in a professional sense, subsersive of self-government in the

nursing profession, and contrary to the whole spirit of the Nurses' Registration Acts.

The One Portal System of Registration.

The Council has taken strong exception to the demand on the part of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association to obtain the recognition of their Examination as qualifying for admission to the Supplementary Part for Mental Nurses of the State Registers issued under the authority of the General Nursing Councils.

Such recognition would undermine, and inevitably disintegrate the one portal system of examination which the Nursing Acts were designed to establish, and which was established by the authority of Parliament, and which has already proved of increasing value in improving nursing standards of the profession generally.

The Petition of the College of Nursing Ltd., for the Grant of a Royal Charter.

The Petition of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for the Grant of a Royal Charter was considered by a Committee of the Privy Council on February 29th, and was opposed by the Royal British Nurses' Association, the British College of Nurses, and other professional organisations. The opposition to the grant of this Charter was primarily directed to the provision of the proposed Charter in which the College of Nursing sought powers to maintain a Register of Nurses.

It was therefore extremely satisfactory to the representatives of this College when Mr. R. Mitchell Banks, K.C., who appeared for the applicants, before Mr. Gavin Simonds, K.C., who appeared for the opponents, could submit arguments on this point, informed the Committee of the Privy Council that the College of Nursing would be content to keep a list of Members and not a Register.

Had the opponents not taken action the Draft Charter of the College of Nursing would, in all probability, have gone through unaltered, and it would have obtained powers to maintain a rival Register of Nurses which could not fail to be inimical to the prestige of those published under the authority of the Nursing Acts of Parliament by the General Nursing Councils.

A vote of thanks was sent by the Council of the College to the Hon. Treasurer and Trustee, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, for the immense pains he took in regard to this matter.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

During the consideration of the Nursing Homes Registration Bill in the House of Commons, the Council of the British College of Nurses took exception to the inclusion in this Bill of Christian Science Nursing Homes, and especially the provision in the Act that they should not be inspected.

In spite of opposition from several Nurses' organisations, it is to be regretted that the Minister of Health included these institutions in the scope of the Act, exempting them from inspection, thus providing no protection for sick persons admitted to them, as required in the Act for regular Nursing Homes under scientific supervision.

Departmental Committee with reference to the Training of Midwives.

The Council is naturally surprised that when a Departmental Committee was appointed by the Minister of Health—

"To consider the working of the Midwives Acts 1902 to 1926 with particular reference to the training of midwives (including its relation to the education of medical students in midwifery) and the conditions under which midwives are employed"

that no Registered Nurse holding the certificate of the Central Midwives Board was appointed to serve upon it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)