

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Council of the British College of Nurses have not met in August, so there is no business to report. The College has, however, had many interesting visitors, all of whom expressed themselves charmed with our Headquarters and very interested in the work of the College. Amongst them have been Miss Dorothy Snell, Matron of the Policlinico Hospital, Rome, two members of the National Council of Nurses of Norway, who are hoping to work in English Hospitals for a while, another of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, the Matron of a Hospital in Poland, and Miss Anna Erma, President of the Esthonian Nurses' Association, who had many interesting things to tell of nursing affairs in that country.

Miss Erma, who was trained at the City Hospital, Nuremberg, is keenly interested in nursing education and its improvement. She is herself Matron of a Nurse Training School at Tartu, affiliated to the University, with which nine hospitals are in connection.

Miss Erma has taken the Bedford College Course of the League of Red Cross Societies in this country, and also spent three months with Sister Agnes Karll in her office in Berlin, and speaks with the deepest gratitude of all that she learnt from her as to the past history of nursing, and nursing organisation.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, Miss M. Breay, Vice-President, and the following members of the Council are leaving London for Rome to attend the Sixth Anti-Tuberculosis Congress: Miss Mary G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby and Miss I. Macdonald.

Altogether some 25 Fellows and Members of the College have made themselves members of the Congress, and will arrive in Rome before September 25th to be ready for the opening Session. The special interest of the Congress to British Nurses is that, for the first time, Italian Nurses are taking an official part.

A report on the activities of the Congress will be presented at a meeting at the College about the middle of October.

When the holidays are over and we settle down to business in October we shall resume the Courses of Lectures which were so much appreciated last winter. The first will be one of six lectures on Gynæcology by Miss Gertrude Dearnley, M.D., commencing on October 18th, which will be on the following subjects:—

1. Anatomy of Pelvis.
2. Menstruation.
3. Displacements of Uterus and Prolapse.
4. New Growths.      5. Venereal Diseases.
6. Extra-uterine Pregnancy; Gynæcological Operations.

Tickets to be obtained from the Secretary, B.C.N. at 39 Portland Place, London, W. Fellows and Members 5s. the Course, Non-Members 7s. 6d. the Course, Single lectures 1s. 6d.

Dr. Dearnley is an attractive lecturer and successful teacher, and it is the hope of the Council that many nurses will take advantage of this Course. The subject is one of which many nurses have very little knowledge.

### FIXTURE FOR SEPTEMBER

September 8th.—Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2 p.m.

## MEMORANDUM re NURSING PROFESSION IN ALBERTA.

*prepared by*

**THE HONOURABLE H. GREENFIELD,**

*Agent-General for Alberta.*

The Hon. Herbert Greenfield, Agent-General for Alberta, Canada, was, to the great regret of the President and Council of the British College of Nurses, unable to be present at the Annual Dinner at the Hotel Metropole, on July 10th. He, however, most kindly sent the interesting Memorandum which we print below.

### Training Schools for Nurses.

In Alberta we have eight large training Schools for Nurses, and four smaller ones—twelve in all. These schools give a general training in medical, surgical, obstetrical and infectious diseases. So far, none of these schools are affiliated with the Provincial Mental Hospital.

Approximately one hundred and fifty nurses graduate from these Schools each year, but notwithstanding the fact that many of them marry comparatively soon after graduation, the supply of nurses for Institutions and private nursing is quite adequate.

### Public Health Nurses.

Any municipality, Urban or Rural, requiring the services of a Public Health Nurse, may enter into an agreement with the Government Department of Public Health under which the Municipality agrees to bear half the cost of the service—the Provincial Department of Health bearing one half, and retaining the right to appoint and supervise the nurse.

The work of Public Health Nurses is principally educational school health examinations—Baby Clinics—Conducting Home Nursing Classes, Inoculation and Vaccination, where necessary. Home visiting is an important part of the Public Health Nurse's work; there she finds the pre-natal cases, and pre-school child that are otherwise overlooked. Sanitary conditions in schools and the community come under her observation also, and serious epidemics of contagious diseases are checked by timely visits, leading to strict quarantine regulations imposed by the Department.

Special training is essential for this work. The minimum salary paid to Public Health Nurses is 1,400 dollars per annum.

### District Nurses.

In 1919 the Government instituted a plan of nursing for outlying districts not provided with medical aid. Graduate nurses with special training in obstetrics were placed in these districts where the population warranted it, and where a certain responsibility was undertaken by the community to be served. In this service we have from time to time engaged British nurses, as a number of them have special training in obstetrics and their experience in district work makes their services particularly valuable in our outlying districts.

The nurses for this service are required to be fully qualified graduate registered nurses with special maternity training. This branch of the service exemplifies most fully the highest ideals of the Nursing Profession. The responsibility placed upon the district nurse requires sound judgment and courage of the highest order. Taking into consideration the loneliness, isolation and responsibility of the work undertaken by the district nurse, the Department recognises that she should be well remunerated. She receives a salary of \$1,800 a year paid direct by the Department.

As these nurses have a wonderful opportunity of teaching health in their districts, we have added to their other

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