

invite the participation of Private Nurses and persons supervising and controlling organisations of Private Nurses, in the hope of helping to promote and protect standards for private nursing for the benefit of the public and for better economic conditions for Nurses engaged in Private Nursing.

#### Thanks for Diplomas.

The Lady Hermione Blackwood sends thanks for "The beautiful Diploma, and I am very proud of being a Foundation Fellow of the British College of Nurses."

Miss C. C. du Sautoy also sends thanks, and writes: "What a beautiful Diploma it is, and I think it is so nice having the names of Nurses on it who have done so much for the Profession."

Miss Helen M. Southcombe writes from South Australia: "I was pleased to receive THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, that will help more than anything else to keep Australian Nurses in touch with the affairs in the Nursing World of the Homeland. I shall be very pleased to receive it regularly."

Miss M. K. Murphy writes from Cape Town, South Africa: "Thank you much for the Diploma received by last mail. It is really a very beautiful one, and I am very proud to possess it. Wishing the College every success—it has a great future before it."

Many other letters promised help in making the aims of the College known to colleagues.

#### Report of the Education Committee.

The Report of the Education Committee was presented by its Chairman, Miss M. S. Cochrane, which included a short account of the interview with Miss Mary Collet on training and work in Occupational Therapy and the results.

Miss Gertrude Dearnley, M.D. (Lond.), had agreed to give a Course of Six Lectures on Gynæcology beginning on Thursday, April 26th, at 6.30 p.m.

As agreed, the syllabus of the Elementary Lectures on Psychology and its Application to Nursing had been submitted by Dr. Forsythe, and the Course would begin on February 14th, at 7.30 p.m. After the Lectures tea would be served.

The Report was adopted.

#### Miss Graham's Report.

Miss Graham submitted a most satisfactory Report of her visits to various hospitals and institutions—twenty-seven in all—where, apparently, she had aroused much interest amongst matrons and nurses, many of whom approved the principles on which the British College of Nurses is founded, and had sent in their Application Forms;

The Council thanked Miss Graham for her tactful method of making the work of the College known throughout a wide area.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Medical Officer of Health at St. Helen's, Lancs, for her sympathy and support, and for permitting a meeting in connection with the Public Health Department in the Town Hall, at which about 30 Health Visitors and School Nurses were present.

#### Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for Fellowship and Membership were received from 41 highly trained Registered Nurses, many holding positions of administrative authority, and all were elected.

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

The next item on the Agenda was to consider a draft of the considered opinion of the Council of the College, in relation to the ethical procedure of election of Registered Nurses on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The President reminded the Council that the electorate on the General Part of the Register amounted to 42,568, a prohibitive electorate for the average nurse to circularise, owing to the cost, and that to provide a fair election organisation would be necessary in the future—the recent election having been largely financed by the Dowager Lady Cowdray and other lay persons in support of representatives of the College of Nursing, Ltd., enabling its panel to appeal direct to every elector and, in consequence, to secure the entire representation of the nurses on the General Part of the Register—a very dubious and undesirable method of conducting an election. It resulted in the seats being secured for members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the opinions of independent nurses were unrepresented on their Governing Body.

After discussion, the Council adopted the following Resolution:—

#### RESOLUTION.

The Council of the British College of Nurses desires to place on record its considered opinion that the action of the Joint Committee composed of Members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Poor Law Matrons' Association, and the Association of Hospital Matrons, in accepting a large sum of money from a lay member of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for the purpose of financing the candidature of its nominees for seats on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in the recent Election, was unethical in a professional sense, subversive of self-government in the nursing profession, and contrary to the whole spirit of the Nurses' Registration Act.

The inevitable result of this action was to overload the General Nursing Council with the protagonists of one organisation, as the cost of circularising the electorate, to candidates who declined to submit to the dictation of the Joint Committee, was prohibitive.

The Council of the British College of Nurses is further of opinion that Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses should scrupulously refrain from endeavouring to influence the votes of Registered Nurses who are under their control. Such influence must inevitably result in economic pressure being brought to bear upon what should be a free and unbiased Election.

The Council decided to send copies of the Resolution to various authorities and to the Press.

#### Amendment to the Constitution.

It was agreed to recommend the Amendment of the Constitution of the College in relation to the number of Members on the Council, under the following provision: "If at any time, the Council shall consider it advisable to reduce the number of Fellows on the Council from nine to six, such reduction may be made by a Resolution of the Council, if sanctioned by the Trustees."

The result of the Amendment would be that the Council would be composed of twelve instead of fifteen persons—nine Fellows and three Members.

It was further recommended that the £300 per annum thus saved in Honoraria should be used for educational purposes for the benefit of Fellows and Members.

#### Local Consuls.

The names of several Fellows who had shown a keen interest in founding the British College were recom-

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