

July next, as the Ballot papers have to be issued in June.

#### Conference on Conditions of Private Nursing.

The following letter has been sent to the largest Metropolitan Private Nursing Organisations and to the hospitals maintaining private nursing staffs:—

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES,  
39, Portland Place,  
London, W.1.

February 21st, 1928.

#### CONFERENCE ON CONDITIONS OF PRIVATE NURSING.

Dear . . . . .,—It has been brought to the notice of the Council of the British College of Nurses that, owing to the fact that there are large numbers of institutions which supply private nurses to the public, thoroughly trained nurses suffer disadvantages both personal and economic, as they have to compete in private houses with nurses who are very inadequately trained, and who either work for insufficient fees or charge the public exorbitantly.

My Council realises that there is no co-operation between well-conducted Private Nursing Institutions, and that there is no sufficient minimum fee or standard of training enforced for the protection of the public and the nurses.

The example set in Australia by the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association and also throughout the United States of America of defining a standard of efficiency and a minimum fee for private duty nurses, might well be considered in this country.

I am therefore directed to ask you to be good enough to state on the enclosed postcard whether you would be prepared to send a representative of your Institution to discuss these important questions.

Should a sufficient number of those employing or directing private nurses agree to take part in such a Conference, my Council is prepared to make arrangements to hold it at the British College of Nurses, at the above address, at a convenient time to those concerned.

Awaiting the courtesy of a reply,

I am, yours faithfully,

GRACE REYNOLDS HALE,  
Secretary.

It was reported that quite a number of institutions had accepted the invitation, but that it was to be regretted that with one exception the large General Hospitals sending out private nurses had declined to take part in the Conference.

As private nurses are much occupied at present, it was agreed to defer the Conference from March 22nd to a date in April, when it was hoped private nurses interested (as they all ought to be) in their professional and economic conditions, would be able to attend.

The British College of Nurses hopes to procure co-operation between private nursing organisations, to the mutual benefit of their staffs.

#### Local Consuls.

Replies from ladies invited to act as Local Consuls of the College were received. Those accepting to do so were received with pleasure, and it was agreed to more clearly define the duties in reply to several letters, at the next meeting of the Council.

#### Correspondence.

Many letters were considered.

A communication from the Ministry of Health notifying the appointment of Mr. L. G. Brock, C.B., as a member of the Board of Control, and that he had been

appointed by the Minister of Health Chairman of the Board, in the place of Sir Frederick Willis, K.B.E., C.B., was read, and it was reported that as the Board might probably take part in any controversy referring to the Examination of Mental Nurses by a body outside the General Nursing Council, a copy of the following letter, sent to Sir Frederick Willis, had been at once sent to Mr. Brock:—

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES,  
39, Portland Place,  
London, W.1.

January 11th, 1928.

Sir,—The Council of the British College of Nurses desire to bring to your notice the question now under consideration of the State Examination and Registration of Mental Nurses.

As you are aware, Mental Nurses are granted under the Nurses' Registration Acts the same privileges as other Nurses, and the General Nursing Council has defined a curriculum for State Examinations and State Registration for Mental Nurses.

Professor George Robertson, University of Edinburgh, and some of his colleagues, Members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, have made the proposition that this Association, which is not a statutory body, shall continue to examine Mental Nurses, and that it shall be made compulsory for the General Nursing Council to place these Nurses on the State Register.

In the opinion of the Council of the British College of Nurses, this would be a very retrograde step, so far as the Examination, Registration and legal status of Mental Nurses is concerned, and the Council desires to place this considered opinion before the Board of Control.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) GRACE REYNOLDS HALE,  
Secretary.

Sir F. J. Willis, K.B.E., C.B.

This letter had been acknowledged by Mr. Brock.

The President called upon Miss D. K. Graham to report on the proposal of the examination of Mental Nurses by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in Scotland.

Miss Graham reported that nurses in Scotland appeared alive to the disadvantages of such a course and were taking steps to notify their opinions to the General Nursing Council for Scotland.

It was reported that so far the Mental Nursing Committee of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales had made no report on the question to the Council. The President said the Council of the British College of Nurses would await any such Report before taking action; but that as nothing of an injurious nature could take effect if the G.N.C. firmly maintained its statutory authority, it was to be hoped no injury to the status of Mental Nurses would be effected in this connection. If, however, the Board of Control or any authority attempted to have the Nurses' Registration Act amended, in Parliament, in the sense proposed by Professor Robertson of Edinburgh, the College would no doubt organise a very active campaign in Parliament against any such amendment, as approved by Fellows holding the dual qualification of General and Mental Nurses.

#### Thanks for Congratulations and Diplomas.

Many letters were received from Fellows and Members appreciating congratulations on promotion and express-

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