

I am particularly pleased to see on the Scroll of Honour the name of my beloved Matron, Rebecca Strong, along with those other very illustrious names in the Nursing world. Wishing the College every possible success."

The mother of a Fellow writes from Govan, N.B.: "Kindly excuse the delay in acknowledging the receipt of Diploma which is very, very precious to me."

"My daughter, whose it is, has just left us to serve as a missionary in Sudan, and for that reason it is doubly precious."

"Accept our sincerest appreciation, for we all greatly admire such a possession."

Many other charming letters expressing pride and pleasure in possessing the Diploma were notified.

Report of the Education Committee.

The recommendations in the Report were approved.

Dr. Forsythe, a Resident Medical Officer at the Kent County Mental Hospital, has consented to give the ten Lectures on Psychology to commence in February (see fixtures). The Course of Lectures on Gynæcology will follow, and details be announced later.

Miss I. Macdonald's last Lecture on the History of Nursing, with lantern slides, will be given on Tuesday, January 24th, at 5.30 p.m. The slides are most interesting and instructive and will no doubt attract a large audience.

The Organisation of Private Nursing.

Miss Beatrice Treasure, R.N.A., wrote asking "In what way is the College of Nurses going to help the conditions of the Private Nurse?"

The President pointed out, and the Council agreed, that the conditions of private nurses, especially in London, were far from satisfactory, owing to various contributory causes: (1) the lack of individual organisation—private nurses, so far, having shown little inclination to help themselves. In America and in Australia private nurses' conditions were well defined, and a minimum fee agreed, the Nursing Schools offering no competition in private nursing by controlling staffs of private nurses. In England, especially in London, the competition of institutions had, so far, prevented the adoption of a minimum fee, educational standards, and rules of service, etc.

The Council agreed to summon a conference on Private Nursing in the Spring, in the hope that private nurses would attend to take part in the discussion, and to which would be invited representatives of organisations sending out private nurses—with the aim of adopting a minimum fee, and other desirable reforms for the benefit of the public and the protection of private nurses.

Miss Graham's Report.

Miss Graham presented a most encouraging Report, which was adopted. During the month she had paid visits of instruction to 38 institutions, and interest in the basic principles of the College had been aroused. She had met many kind and intelligent people. Only in one hospital—and that largely controlled by "working men"—was the Matron forbidden to hold a meeting of the nurses to enable them to hear expert information concerning the College endowed for their benefit with £100,000. "Many of the Nurses belonged to the College of Nursing, and one society was enough," was the opinion of these "autocratic democrats."

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Graham for her very successful month's tour and work.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for Fellowship and Membership were received from 33 highly trained Registered Nurses, and all were elected.

General Nursing Council Election.

The methods by which the Election of the new General Nursing Council for England and Wales had been conducted were considered and disapproved, and it was agreed to issue a considered protest against the financing of the Election by the laity, and the interference of influential bodies of Matrons with the free selection of candidates. It was pointed out that by these methods a caucus of persons to represent the nurses on the General Part of the Register had been elected, all of whom were members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and nine of whom had seats on its Council—a body partly controlled by lay persons of wealth and social influence.

History had repeated itself in the election of the representatives of the nurses on the Special Parts of the Register—the constituencies of which had nominated and returned independent candidates, free from financial and economic pressure. The Council were of opinion that the freedom of the ballot should in the future be secured to nurses on the General Part of the Register, and that a fund subscribed to by the Nurses themselves might be organised for this purpose.

The Council agreed that Parliament might well be invited to protect the rights and privileges of electors of Statutory Bodies by the same means which had already been found necessary in the case of Parliamentary and Municipal elections.

The Nursing Homes Registration Bill.

It was reported that this Bill had received the Royal Assent on December 22nd, and was a somewhat disappointing Act, as, owing to compromise, it would not effect some reforms urgently required. For instance, the Act does not prevent such Homes being run by the laity, so long as they secure a Registered Nurse as Superintendent. Metropolitan Borough Councils in London, and District Councils in the country, may be constituted the local supervising authority—by the higher authorities—and Christian Science Houses, which are not nursing homes in any scientific sense, are included in the Act, but are exempt from inspection.

The Council much regretted that expediency and compromise in Parliament had resulted in an Act which was not calculated to effect really efficient reforms in the conduct of Private Nursing Homes.

Gifts to the College.

Gifts as follows were reported:—

1. Two lovely lace d'oyleys.—Mrs. L. E. Reeve.
2. South African flowers.—Miss Pritchard.
3. Magazines for Club Room.—Miss J. B. N. Paterson.
4. 10s. for flowers.—Miss M. A. D. Mitchell.
5. Fine old Chelsea candlestick.—Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson.

Gifts to Isla Stewart Bookcase.

"London, Past and Present," and "The Letters of Gertrude Bell."—From Miss Janet Stewart.

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