

her house was never locked. Theirs was the kind of race that they in America loved to think of perpetuating, so that they could draw upon it when they were overwhelmed by migration.

They were trying to establish a service of trained nurses, who were also qualified midwives, to live in stations in the heart of a five mile radius. They had five such stations at present, a small hospital, and her own home, which was the administrative centre. The idea was that the nurse should never be more than five miles from any patient, although she covered an area of seventy-eight square miles. The nurses travelled on horseback, and extra horses had to be provided for them, for horses had not the resistance of nurses. If a nurse ate anything that disagreed with her, she forgot about it. If a horse did, nobody could! Horses were more trouble to look after than babies. Sometimes if the father came for the nurse she went with him to the patient. Recent stories had reached her of the floods, in which the man had been up to his neck, but the nurse had got through to the woman who needed her and had brought another little life into the world. The nurses wore riding breeches and rode astride. They all had short hair, and their lives were reduced to the simplest point. Half the nurses were British, and half were Americans who had got their training in Britain because they had difficulty sometimes with their midwifery training over there. Her British nurses Mrs. Breckinridge described as "simply magnificent." No other word, she said, could describe the indomitable kindness, courage, and gentleness of them. They had two or three Scottish ones with them at present. One, Miss Mackinnon, won the Croix de Guerre in France. She was doing as heroic work to-day.

In the 1928 Annual Report of the General Hospital, Birmingham, the Matron, Miss C. E. Bailey, S.R.N., gives the following details in regard to the Nursing Staff:

During the year certificates of the Hospital were granted to thirty-five nurses. Nineteen finished their training and have left the Hospital. Ten nurses were released from their agreement on account of failure to pass their examinations, ill health or marriage.

Sixty-two nurses entered the Hospital; of these thirty-six have remained for training, twenty left during their trial period, while six are still on probation.

Fifty-six candidates passed through the Preliminary School during the year, the remaining six being State Registered Children's or Fever nurses. Two probationers from Ceylon have been accepted for training, and so far are doing well. Two Staff nurses from other Hospitals were employed during the year. Two nurses, one Swiss and one French, have entered the Hospital for a year's experience in English methods.

The prize-giving and presentation of Gold Medal and Certificates took place in December, in the Nurses' Home. The chair was taken by Mr. Owen Thompson, Chairman of the Board. Mrs. George Pearson kindly presented the prizes and certificates.

The Gold Medal for 1928 was awarded to Miss M. K. Starke, who gained the highest number of marks for theoretical and practical work in the final examination.

The results of the State Examinations, both Final and Preliminary, have been very satisfactory.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The thirty-second Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, W.1, on Saturday, April 27th, at 2 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following Members were present: Miss M. Brey and Miss S. A. Villiers, *Vice-Presidents*; Miss M. G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, *Fellows*; Miss E. J. Haswell and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C., *Members*.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Correspondence.

A number of letters were received and considered.

1. Acknowledgment from the Secretary of State for Home Affairs of the Statement presented by the British College of Nurses on the necessity for protective legislation in cases of Encephalitis Lethargica.

2. Letters from two Fellows interested in cases of Encephalitis Lethargica, enclosing a cutting from the *Manchester Guardian* of "Sleepy Sickness Sequel."

3. Letter from a Fellow applying for a Sister Tutor's Grant.

4. Letter from Miss E. Smith, F.B.C.N., Nelson Cottage, Montgomery Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland, sending samples of delicious home-made sweets, made with butter, and enclosing price-lists. These sweets are highly recommended and very reasonable in price, and are sent carriage paid. Miss Smith will be glad to receive orders.

5. Letters from Fellows and Members thanking for Grants.

6. Letters from Members asking for Grants.

7. Letters asking for legal advice.

8. Letters from Fellows and Members thanking for Congratulations and Diplomas.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications were received for Fellowship and Membership, and all the applicants were elected.

Financial Report.

The Chairman presented the Financial Report for the month.

Miss Graham's Report.

Miss Graham presented an interesting Report of the Meetings she had held during the last month, and of the Coaching Classes held in Surgery, Surgical Nursing, Gynæcology, Gynæcological Nursing, and General Nursing.

Miss Graham was warmly thanked for all the work she had accomplished.

Luncheon in Place of a Dinner This Year.

The suggestion to have a Luncheon instead of the Annual Dinner this year, as several of the Members of the Council will be at the International Congress of Nurses in Montreal in July was approved, and a Sub-Committee of Miss Bushby, Miss Cochrane, and Miss Macdonald, together with the hon. officers, was appointed to deal with the arrangements.

It was agreed that the British College of Nurses should unite with constituent societies forming the

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