

and Spain. The Association of so many nationalities adds greatly to the benefit of the Red Cross scheme.

Sir Eric Hambro, chairman of the Royal National Pensions Fund for Nurses, who presided at the forty-second annual meeting of the Fund at the Royal Society of Arts, reported that at the close of 1928 the Fund's investments amounted to £2,136,344.

On July 6th a Garden Party, Reunion and Presentation of Medals at Southwark Hospital, East Dulwich Grove, S.E., will take place. Tea will be served from 4.0 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. The Medical Superintendent (Dr. H. W. Bruce) and Miss R. E. Wallace (the Matron) will be delighted to welcome any past members of the staff.

Many Registered Nurses are, at the present time, desirous of adding training as health visitors to their State certificate in Nursing, and that provided by the Battersea Polytechnic, Battersea Park Road, London, S.W., is admirably suited for this purpose. Its Department of Hygiene and Public Health has for many years specialised in the training of students for all branches of Public Health work. It has large, well-equipped laboratories for practical and experimental work in Hygiene, Physiology, Dietetics, etc.; and the Edwin Tate Library of the Battersea Polytechnic, which contains over 7,000 volumes, is open for the use of students from 9 a.m. to 8.45 p.m.

Its course for the training of Health Visitors is approved by the Ministry of Health, and is standardised by the regulations of the Ministry which came into force in April, 1928.

For the fully trained nurse, six months' full-time training only is necessary, in Public Health and Social work, to be followed by that for the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, if this has not already been taken.

It is, however, recommended by the authorities of the Polytechnic for students whenever possible to take three terms instead of two. The fee for the six months' course is £12 (payable in two instalments if desired). Further particulars can be obtained on application to the Head of the Department, Miss Evelyn Wilkins, B.A. Sociology (London).

The Annual Reunion and Prize-giving was held on Wednesday, June 26th at the Oldham Royal Infirmary.

Mr. Critchley, Chairman of the Nursing Committee, presided, and Dr. Radcliffe, Senior Honorary Surgeon, presented the certificates and badges. Nurse McNicol gained the Gold Badge, Nurse Harris the Silver Badge, with 86 and 85 percentage, and Nurse Malone the Junior Book Prize.

Tea was served in the Nurses' Home, afterwards dancing was thoroughly enjoyed by both visitors and Nurses.

Many Bart.'s Nurses will be pleased to know that photographs of the late Miss Isla Stewart's Plaque may be obtained from Miss Baines, Assistant Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C.1, as in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last month, head only 5s. Photo of entire plaque, small head, surround and inscription, 3s. 6d.

## BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Thirty-fourth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. on Saturday, June 29th, at 2 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present:—Miss M. G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, *Fellows*: and Miss K. M. Latham, *R.R.C. Member*.

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

### Correspondence.

Letters were received and considered:—

1. From Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., expressing regret at inability to attend.
2. A card of thanks from La Maréchale Foch "*Vous le mercie de votre sympathie*" in acknowledgment of the expression of sympathy sent from the Council to Madame Foch on the death of her illustrious husband.

It was agreed that this card should be carefully preserved in the historic section of the College.

### Imprisonment of Cases of Post Encephalitis Lethargica.

3. From the Minister of Health (June 21st).

MADAM,

I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to previous correspondence and to state that in consultation with the Secretary of State he has carefully considered the representations made by the British College of Nurses on the subject of protective legislation for persons suffering from the after effects of encephalitis lethargica.

As regards the first recommendation in the statement presented by the College to the Secretary of State, the Minister is of opinion that there would be considerable opposition to any legislation which conferred powers of control over all sufferers from post-encephalitis lethargica. Such powers exist at present in regard to persons so affected who are certifiable under the Lunacy Acts or the Mental Deficiency Acts, and as regards the remainder the Minister considers that the best policy for the present is to extend the available institutional accommodation for such cases. This is gradually being done, and it may be anticipated that, when the Poor Law institutions are transferred to the County and County Borough Councils under the Local Government Act, 1929, more rapid progress will be made in this direction.

With regard to the second recommendation the Minister is advised that there is not at present sufficient evidence to show that fresh legislation is desirable for the amendment of Section 1 (2) of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1927, in the manner proposed.

In the circumstances the Minister does not consider that any advantage would result from receiving a Deputation from the College.

This letter is signed by an Assistant Secretary.

In acknowledging this letter, the Secretary was instructed to ask "if this expression of opinion and decision, not to receive a deputation from the British College of Nurses, had been arrived at under the authority of the present Minister, the Rt. Hon. A. Greenwood, M.P., or during the term of office of the former Minister

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