

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The thirty-sixth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, September 21st, at 2 p.m. The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the chair, and the following members were present:—Miss M. Breay and Miss S. A. Villiers, Vice-Presidents; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, and Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*; and Miss E. J. Haswell and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C., *Members*.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

Matters referred to in the minutes having been considered, the President referred to the recent death of Dr. Foord-Caiger—a generous friend of nurses—especially interested in the work of the College, at which he had attended several functions. Miss Breay had attended the memorial service at St. Thomas's Hospital, and Miss Villiers that held at Stockwell to represent the Council. The President proposed an upstanding vote of sympathy with Mrs. Foord-Caiger, which the Secretary was directed to convey to her.

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence was dealt with.

From Miss Agnes Garrett, and Miss Philippa Fawcett, expressing thanks for sympathy on the death of Dame Millicent Fawcett.

From Lady Grigg, thanking the Council for kind interest in nursing work in Kenya Colony, and expressing her pleasure at visiting the College.

From Miss M. G. Allbutt, thanking for message of appreciation from her colleagues on the Council upon her retirement, and promising interest and help in the future.

From Miss B. M. Townsend, informing the Council she is now in her new home, The Rosary, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, which is beautifully situated, with large garden, and is prepared to take two patients (mental convalescents). The Council agreed to make the home known as far as possible.

Letter from a Matron asking for usual scale of holidays for trained nurses—the Committee proposing that she should agree to two weeks' annual leave. The Council replied that four weeks was the minimum leave for a Matron. The larger hospitals were granting five weeks to senior officers, with an additional week's holiday in the spring.

Several letters asking for financial help, and grants for educational purposes. These were considered.

Thanks for Diplomas.

Many letters of thanks for diplomas were received. Miss Dorothea Webb wrote:—"The diploma is very handsome in design, and the names in the scroll render it most valuable to anyone who has the interests of the profession at heart. I shall certainly value it most highly."

Miss G. N. Gratton writes from Philadelphia:—"I have been out of the city for the past four months and only just returned and found my diploma waiting for me.

"I am so delighted with it and am so glad to be able to still belong to 'things across the water' and to keep in touch with you all by means of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which I receive regularly. All good wishes to the College and members."

Miss Dorothy A. Turner writes from Palwal, S. Punjab, India:—"I have pleasure in sending my subscription for 1929-1930. I have enjoyed reading THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING this morning, from cover to cover, and feel very envious of the delegates who have gone to the Congress.

"I follow the progress of the College with great interest. We really are growing into a united body, instead of just being isolated nurses scattered around the world.

"I sincerely hope that by persistently keeping the matter of the imprisonment of cases of Post Encephalitis Lethargica before the Minister of Health, the College will be instrumental in getting the necessary legislation for their protection. Best wishes for the College."

Election of Fellows and Members.

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

Financial Report.

The President presented a satisfactory financial report. A total of £286 13s. had been received in subscriptions since the meeting in July.

The Secretary's Report.

The Secretary reported that since the last meeting 337 letters had been received and 938 communications sent out.

There had been 71 visitors to the College.

Report of the Education Committee.

A meeting of the Education Committee was held on Thursday, September 19th.

No further applications had been received for the £50 grant towards the cost of the course for Sister Tutors' tuition so that it is still available.

The President reminded the Committee that two very important reports had been issued: (1) The Report of the Ministry of Health, of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives, and (2) the Memorandum of the British Medical Association, outlining a National Maternity Service Scheme for England and Wales.

Dr. Cox, Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association, had been asked to recommend a member of the Association who would address the members of the College on the Memorandum, and he had kindly recommended Dr. W. H. F. Oxley, who had vast experience in the training of midwives. It was agreed to communicate with Dr. Oxley in the hope that he would consent to address a meeting of nurses interested in the question.

It was further agreed that a meeting should be held to discuss the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives.

Lectures for the Autumn Session.

The autumn Syllabus of Lectures already assented to was further considered and the names of Lecturers agreed.

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