

were given away by Miss C. R. Gooding, Matron of the Western Hospital, Fulham.

As we go to press, the Annual Prize Distribution to the Nursing Staff, and the opening of the Training Session, 1929, at the General Infirmary, Leeds, is taking place. The Chairman is D. H. Middleton, Esq., the prizes are being presented by the Duchess of Portland, and the Bishop of Wakefield (Dr. Seaton) is giving an Address. At the conclusion of the meeting, tea is being served in the Nurses' Dining Room.

To help the sick poor of Leeds the Health Department there has launched two new schemes.

Under one, nurses will be available gratuitously in necessitous cases, and under the other help in the home will be given. Cases will be recommended by doctors.

An inquest on a patient who died in the Christian Science Nursing Home, Sunbury—the second within four days—was held on February 23rd, by Mr. Reginald Kemp, Coroner for South West Middlesex, at the Council Offices, Sunbury, on Mr. Raymond L. D. Barlow, aged 26, who died in the Home to which he had been admitted for treatment.

Mrs. Rachel Till, a Christian Scientist, said she ran the Nursing Home. Mr. Barlow came to it on January 15th, suffering from tuberculosis. He was given every attention and was attended by a Christian Science practitioner. Asked by the Coroner, whether this practitioner did anything but pray, the witness replied in the negative. Further questioned, the witness said they never called in a doctor under any circumstances, unless it was the wish of the parents. His father had asked for him to go home, but she would not let him until a doctor had certified him fit to travel, and he would not see a doctor.

Mr. Herbert Norseworth, of Avernor Court, Ealing, said he was a Christian Science practitioner. Asked by the Coroner what qualifications he had, he replied: "We are registered."

Asked whether he had any knowledge of medical science, he admitted he had none, but said, "We must satisfy the directors of the Mother Church. (These, we believe, are gentlemen in Boston.)"

Dr. L. E. V. Every-Clayton, who made a *post-mortem* examination, said that the patient had advanced tuberculosis in both lungs. He did not think any doctor could have saved him, and the Coroner returned a verdict of "Death from Natural Causes."

It will be remembered that when the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, was before the House of Commons, a Clause was introduced giving the Minister of Health power "to exempt Christian Science Nursing Homes," and, in spite of protests from professional bodies, and from Members of Parliament, it was incorporated in the Act, upon which it is a grave blot. The result is that these places, run by the laity, can claim that they "are registered," and are free from inspection, whilst, under the Act highly qualified professional people are inspected under its provisions, and are under unprofessional control. It is an anomalous and indefensible position.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The thirtieth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, February 23rd, at 2 p.m.

In the regrettable absence of the President the chair was taken by Miss M. Breay, Vice-President, and the following Members were present:—Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham and Miss I. Macdonald (Fellows); and Miss E. J. Haswell and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C. (Members).

Before commencing the Meeting, the Chairman said she had been asked to convey the President's compliments to the Council, and to say how happy she would be, now that she was able to receive guests, to see any of its Members at 12, Barton Street, Westminster.

Miss Cochrane asked the Chairman to convey the Council's thanks and appreciation of the invitation, and their pleasure that the President had so far recovered her health. She hoped that the recovery would soon be entirely complete and that she would be able to preside at the next Meeting of the Council.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., the Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

CENTRALIZATION OF LECTURE CLASSES FOR MIDWIVES.

1. Letter from the Central Midwives Board in answer to the letter sent to the Board by the Council on the 18th January:—

Central Midwives Board Buildings,
1, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.1

DEAR MADAM,—

February 9th, 1929.

I have to inform you that the Board has had under consideration your letter of the 18th ult. with regard to the Board's policy in the matter of centralization of lecture classes and that in connection therewith it has passed the following Resolution:—

"That the Secretary of the British College of Nurses be informed that the experience of the Board is not in accordance with that indicated in the letter and that the Board does not see its way to reverse its policy with regard to centralization of lecture classes."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) H. G. WESTLEY.

The Secretary,
The British College of Nurses. Secretary.

The Secretary was directed to acknowledge the letter of the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board and to send a copy to the Fellow who has asked the Council to take action on the question.

PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

2. It will be remembered that at the last Meeting of the Council it was decided to send the following letter to the Home Secretary:—

LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, London, W.1
January 31st, 1929.

To the Right Honble. Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Bart.,
M.P., Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Council of the British College of Nurses to say that they view with concern

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