

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Forty-third Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on April 26th, at 2.15 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present:—Miss M. Breay and Miss Villiers, *Vice-Presidents*; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*; and Miss A. M. Bright, 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.

IN MEMORIAM.

Before proceeding with the business the President said that it was her sad duty to report the death of a member of the Council—Sister Elizabeth Kennedy—a member whose loss from the Council would be deeply deplored by all those who having worked with her realised her high qualities of heart and mind. She asked the members of Council to rise whilst she proposed from the Chair the following Resolution to be placed on the Minutes:—

“That this Council of affectionate colleagues desires to place on record the deep sense of loss which it has sustained by the death of Elizabeth Kennedy, Foundation Fellow of the British College of Nurses, and valued Member of its Council.”

Mrs. Fenwick reported that Miss Kennedy died at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on April 4th, and that the Memorial Service which was held at St. Bartholomew's the Less on Monday, April 7th, was attended, as representatives of the College, by herself, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss K. M. Latham, and Miss G. R. Hale. A beautiful sheaf of carnations was sent from the President and Council.

In expressing thanks for sympathy, her near friend, who mourns her loss deeply, Miss H. Baines, writes:—“I am thankful to say the end was most peaceful—just a quiet sleep—and I know she was happiest to end her days at St. Bartholomew's Hospital amongst her friends; the flowers the College sent were most beautiful and the colour she loved. She would appreciate the honour done her by the presence of yourself and Members of the Council. I thought the service so impressive. . . . The short committal at Golders Green was equally so, and then later on by the midnight train, the ashes and flowers were conveyed up to Dumfries for burial at Kirkmahoe on Tuesday. Miss Hay-Borthwick (formerly Sister Lawrence) was to represent us there. . . . As you say, we are thankful her sufferings are over. Her loving and faithful service amongst her patients will be greatly missed.”

A friend who loved her dearly writes:—“Elizabeth Kennedy was born in January, 1885, at Dumfries, and died at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on April 4th, 1930.

She was educated at St. Leonard's School, St. Andrews, and entered the Nursing School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1910, obtaining her Certificate in 1913. In 1914 she was appointed Night Superintendent, later Sister of Paget Ward (the Soldiers' Ward), and after the War became Sister Mary.

As a Ward Sister she was full of anxiety to help in the welfare of her patients and had an open hand. She could gain the confidence of nervous patients, and her moral support in this connection was invaluable both to the patients and the medical staff.

She was a disciplinarian and an eager instructress of the Nursing Staff.

She was Secretary to the Benevolent Fund of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League Fund, and a willing and eager helper at all League and Hospital functions.

To the world Elizabeth Kennedy showed a brave face, and her painful illness was borne with great fortitude.

She was full of life and keen to help others.”

The President said, we who worked with and came to love her are indeed the poorer for the loss of this sweet and noble woman, and I feel sure it will be your pleasure that we have an intimate Memorial of her in this College in which she has been so deeply interested since its foundation.

The Council agreed that the Memorial should take the form of a very fine antique Chippendale Armchair—to be the Chairman's Chair—and kept in the Council Chamber, and on which an appropriate inscription should be placed.

Resolutions of sympathy with the family of Miss Kennedy and with the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was passed with uprising vote.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter of thanks for “beautiful flowers” from Mrs. Kennedy and her daughters.

2. Letter and enclosures from the Clerk to the London County Council, dealing with proposals in regard to Scales of Salaries and Conditions of Service, under consideration, and enquiring if the British College of Nurses desire to submit to the Council any observations in the matter.

It was agreed to thank the Clerk for his courteous communication, and to ask if a copy of the proposed new Regulations for the Nursing Service might be sent to the Council, as it desired to consider them with care, before submitting any criticism.

As members of the College employed in the Nursing Service to be organised under the Local Government Act, 1929, have brought certain matters affecting their work to the notice of the Council, an Advisory Sub-Committee was nominated to consider the Preliminary Proposals of the London County Council, as to scales of salaries and conditions of service.

3. Letter from the Treasurer *re* new By-law No. 16, providing for filling an unusual vacancy in the Council by resignation, death, or otherwise, of a member of the Council.

4. Letter from Miss Norah Green, General Secretary of the National Council of Women of Great Britain, *re* the Annual Meeting in Portsmouth, October, 1930, and notifying that the College is entitled to appoint one representative.

A representative was nominated if able to serve.

5. Letter from Miss Ethel Nightingale from Mount Gambier, S. Australia, introducing a friend coming to England and inviting friendly reception for her.

6. Letter from Miss Pearl Morrison, Sibley Memorial Hospital, Washington, U.S.A., offering hospitality to Miss Chadwick, delegate from the British College of Nurses to the International Congress on Mental Hygiene. The Secretary reported that Miss Chadwick, who was a guest of the Congress, had sailed that morning for U.S.A., and it was agreed to forward the kind invitation of Miss Morrison to Congress Headquarters as soon as possible.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

All the applications received for Fellowship and Membership were approved and the candidates elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement.

REPORT OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Chairman of the Education Committee, presented the Report. It recommended that a Notice should be posted up at the next Lecture on Advanced Psychology to the effect that at the end of the Course an Examination would be held, and a Certificate awarded to the successful candidates.

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