

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on International Affairs.

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on International Affairs was held on May 17th, 1930, at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

There were present Mrs. Fenwick, President, in the Chair, Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer; Miss A. Lloyd-Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., President the Nightingale Fellowship, and Miss R. Cox-Davies, C.B.E., R.R.C., President the College of Nursing.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

Letters of regret at inability to attend were received from Miss H. L. Pearse, Hon. Sec.; Miss E. M. Musson, Vice-President, and Miss A. M. Bushby, Director.

A cable was reported from Miss Adelaide Nutting, stating "impossible to go to England in June owing to brother's serious illness."

The Committee whilst fully sympathising with Miss Nutting, regretted that she was unable to take part in a meeting to discuss the proposed International Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, in which she took such a deep interest.

A letter from the Grosvenor Estate was considered in reference to the price of No. 10, South Street, and adjacent property. The Committee appreciated the sentiment attached to the home of Miss Nightingale for forty-five years, and gave consideration to the financial prospects in connection with it, and realised that the ultimate cost of acquiring the property would develop into a very high figure. Further consideration would be required in connection with Miss Nutting's suggestion for a Nightingale Foundation. It was realised that such a scheme must appeal to the wealthy, who realised Miss Nightingale's creative standards of health for humanity, as well as to the nurses of the world, before an adequate scheme as a memorial could be arranged and financed.

After further consultation the meeting terminated.

Miss Nutting writes dated May 7th, expressing her disappointment at inability to come to England—as her passage was engaged on the *S.S. Minnewaska* for June 7th, and says "for the last month I have been looking forward with growing pleasure to the chance of seeing old friends, and of talking over with them some of the nursing questions, in which our interest has been life long. . . . In the meantime I am getting together all the notes about the Florence Nightingale Memorial and every shred of an idea relating to it, and am sending them to you by an early mail. The material ought to be in your hands anyway, for any use you may see fit to make of it."

One more word. Although I have not written about the precious house at 10, South Street (it was here Miss Nutting had a heart to heart personal interview with Miss Nightingale a few years before her death) I have been giving it constant thought, and turning over every possibility in the way of persons who might possibly be interested in helping us to secure it. . . . More about this later. I am distressed to think of the trouble I have caused you."

MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

At the twenty-ninth Quarterly Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, to be held at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Saturday, June 14th, in addition to the routine business, the members will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a contract between Nurse Probationers and the Hospital Authorities. The result of the discussion will be awaited with interest.

THE GUY'S HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Annual Dinner and Annual Meeting of the Guy's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League, held on May 9th, in the Nurses' Home and Outpatient Department of the Hospital were, as usual, very successful functions. The Dinner was excellent, and amongst those present were three former Matrons, Dame Sarah Swift, Miss L. V. Houghton and Miss M. Hogg. The Matron, Miss E. E. P. MacManus, presided, and at the head of each table a Sister dispensed the hospitality of the League, and many maids served the guests, with expedition.

An adjournment of the meeting was made to the Outpatient Department, the spacious and charming sitting-room in the Nurses' Home having now proved too small to accommodate the many members present.

Miss MacManus, Matron of the Hospital and Hon. Secretary of the League, opened the meeting and cordially welcomed back to Guy's all the past members. She then invited Miss E. M. S. Johnston, Matron of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, to take the chair.

Miss Johnston called on Miss MacManus to present the Report of the year's work and the Financial Statement, both of which were very satisfactory. Miss MacManus said in part:—

Between 70 and 80 Members have been transferred to the Past Members' Section of the League during the year. 241 Sisters and Nurses have spent week-ends, "days and nights off" at the Cottage, and 1,618 other visits have been made. Twenty-three Past Members have stayed at the Cottage for short periods during the year. Nearly 1,000 volumes have been taken out of the Nurses' Library during the year.

A reunion Garden Party was held at the Nurses' Cottage at Honor Oak Park on June 12th. About 150 Past and Present Members and several of the Governors, Members of the Medical Staff and their wives were present. Tea was served on the lawn, tennis and clock golf and other games were enjoyed, and a band played delightful music, a very enjoyable afternoon being spent. All expenses were defrayed by the late Sir Cosmo Bonsor, and his kind thought of providing a number of motor coaches, running between the Hospital and the Cottage during the afternoon, was greatly appreciated.

The Nurses' Debating Society held a debate in the Nurses' Home in July. The subject was "Is popularity a test of merit?" After several excellent speeches had been made, a large majority voted against the proposition. In February a debate for Night Nurses was held. Two-minute speeches on subjects announced at the meeting aroused much interest and merriment. The subjects were various, and ranged from "Long v. short skirts" to such problems as "Is suicide ever justifiable?"

Further contributions received during the year brought the Nurses' League Bicentenary Appeal Fund up to £2,449 10s. 6d. This Fund is now closed, and in its place we have a fund for the Equipment of the Library and Practical Class Room, which is being built in the memory of the late Lord Revelstoke. A sum of £122 has been received up to the present date, and I shall be pleased to receive further donations during the year.

Since our last Meeting, I much regret to record the death of one of our Vice-Presidents, Sir Cosmo Bonsor, and one of our Patrons, Sir Alfred Fripp, and nine Past Members.

Sir Cosmo Bonsor, who died at Nice on December 4th after a brief illness was, as you all know, one of the truest friends Guy's Nurses have ever had. His generosity was remarkable, but, greater than that, he endeared himself to those who knew him by his shining example

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