

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

THE Forty-Fifth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on June 21st, at 2.15 p.m.

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

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

Correspondence re the deplorable case of a youth suffering from post-encephalitis-lethargica — who on a former occasion had been sent to prison for an offence, instead of to an institution for treatment. Upon release from prison he had again offended; the President reported the result of the trial, that in spite of one magistrate wanting to condemn the lad as a criminal and again send him to gaol, he had been placed on probation for three years on condition that he entered an institution for treatment. The father entirely broken down in health by the anxiety occasioned by his son's grievous condition as a result of disease, again appealed to the Council for help to place his son in an institution for medical treatment. It was agreed to communicate with his former medical attendant.

The President reminded the Council that the London County Council was now in charge of hospitals where treatment was available for encephalitis-lethargica, and it was to be hoped more beds would be available for such lamentable sufferers in the future.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLLEGE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK OF THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

It was reported that a Memorandum on Scales of Salaries and Conditions of Service in Hospitals and Institutions under the London County Council for Members of the Nursing Service, had been forwarded to the Clerk of the London County Council, since which time the Clerk of the L.C.C. had invited representatives of the College to attend at the County Hall to express their opinions on the Preliminary Proposals on Salaries and Conditions of Service of the Nursing Staff.

The following ladies attended as members of a deputation on Wednesday, June 18th, at 2.30 p.m.:—
Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President.

Miss Susan A. Villiers, Vice-President.
Miss D. K. Graham, Member of Council.
Miss. A. Stewart Bryson, Secretary.

The deputation was courteously received by Mr. Montagu H. Cox, Clerk of the Council; Dr. F. N. K. Menzies, Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, L.C.C., and Miss D. E. Bannon, Matron-in-Chief, L.C.C.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick introduced the Deputation and submitted a Memorandum of Important Points for Discussion on Nursing Organisation.

1. The imperative necessity of maintaining the legal status of the Nursing Profession.

2. The personal authority of the Matron as Head of the Nurses' Training School should be carefully maintained.

3. Training. The importance of continuity to include moral influence, as well as theoretical instruction.

4. The necessity for grants for the education of Sister Tutors.

5. "Assistant Nurses" should not be employed, otherwise than as probationers, as they become an economic danger to Registered Nurses outside institutions.

6. The education of Male Nurses needs a revised curriculum, co-operative training between the general and mental hospitals, and well-educated young men should be encouraged to qualify themselves for the private nursing of male patients suffering from certain diseases for which men in attendance are more suitable than women.

The President made a full report to the Council, from which it was apparent that, whilst excluding questions of management as apart from service and salaries, and expressing sympathy with the majority of the views advanced by its Representatives and expressing their good intentions, the officials of the London County Council gave no immediate hope of

drastic reform, advancing the reason that the task of taking over so immense an organisation would require lengthy consideration, and hasty reform was impracticable.

The President reminded the Council that a certain sense of apprehension permeated the nursing departments of the hospitals to be administered by the London County Council, and any policy which centralised nursing and domestic management at the County Hall under a civil and medical directorate would inevitably stultify the evolution of the nursing departments of hospitals under such control.

Every effort must be made in the most helpful spirit to influence the London County Council to deal generously



Miss ELIZABETH BRODIE, R.G.N., R.M.N., F.B.C.N.
Lady Superintendent, Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital.
New Member of the Council of the British College of Nurses.

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