

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Forty-seventh Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, September 20th, at 2.15 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present: Miss M. Breay, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., *Vice-Presidents*; Miss E. Brodie, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Norah Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*, and Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss A. M. Bright, *Members*.

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

Miss A. M. Bushby here rose and thanked the Council in graceful words for having been elected to serve for the remainder of the term of office of the late Miss E. Kennedy, and expressed her intention of performing the duties to the full extent of her ability.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., the newly elected Vice-President took her seat on the left hand of the President.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

DISEASE AND CRIME.

The President referred to the decision of the Council to continue its interest, as reported in the Minutes, in the relation of disease and crime, and further enquiries had been made in reference to the case of Leonard Welch, suffering from post-encephalitis lethargica, who had suffered imprisonment instead of his case being referred by the magistrate for scientific medical treatment, and who upon release had again appeared in the police court for the same misdemeanour. The President reported that at a recent meeting of the British Association at Bristol the relation between disease and crime was traced by Dr. P. Watson-Williams of Bristol, in a paper which he read to the Physiology Section on "Chronic Toxæmia as a cause of degeneration of mind and conduct." Speaking of the survivors of sleepy sickness, Dr. Watson-Williams said that one of the most definite and distressing clinical types was the apache, who showed tendencies varying from simple mischievousness to definite criminal manifestations. . . . Every degree in change of conduct had been noticed, and an entire change of personality was sometimes involved. . . . It was wasteful to punish by ordinary legal procedure patients who were simply victims of disease for which they were quite irresponsible. When those afflicted were brought within the pale of the law, expert medical examination must determine the existence of disease likely to cause misdemeanours not by casual observation but with a collaboration of expert investigation when searching for definite pathological changes.

The President reported that she had communicated with Dr. Watson-Williams and had sent him the reports in the *B.J.N.* of the action taken by the Council in approaching the Home Office, and the Ministry of Health on the subject—with very little satisfaction. Now that the London County Council was responsible for providing sufficient treatment for these sad cases, it was to be hoped it would take action.

The President read a very interesting letter from Dr. Watson-Williams, who had kindly consented to permit an abstract of his paper to appear in the *B.J.N.*, and whilst deeply appreciating the honour of an invitation to lecture on the subject at the College, his commitments prevented him from accepting the invitation for the moment.

Dr. Watson-Williams had most kindly forwarded from the publisher a copy of his recently published book on "Chronic Nasal Sinusitis and its relation to General Medicine" on which his paper was largely based. Within this book there is a small section dealing with the subjects of Insanity, Suicide and Crimes.

It was decided to send a vote of thanks to Dr. Watson-Williams for his courtesy and kindness, with an expression of hope that it might be convenient for him at some future time to address the members at the College on Disease and Crime.

National Council of Women Conference at Portsmouth. It was reported that Miss M. M. P. Siggers, Sister Tutor at St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, would act as Delegate for the College at the forthcoming Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain to be held at Portsmouth in October.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter from Miss M. A. Dolling giving information on the dual insurance of nurses under the Federated Scheme working in Municipal Hospitals.

It was agreed to make representations to the London County Council on the matter.

2. Letter of thanks from Miss Menhennett from South Australia for sympathy of Council on the death of Miss Mullaney, Local Consul for the College in South Australia, and asking for information concerning the International Council of Nurses. The Council decided to ask for further details from Miss Menhennett in South Australia.

3. Letters of thanks for congratulations from Miss A. Russell, Miss M. Dolling and Miss E. M. F. Pritchard on their promotion to responsible posts.

4. From the Lady Hermione Blackwood: "I feel I must write and thank you again for the very nice notice you have written in the *B.J.N.* on the death of my brother (The Marquess of Dufferin and Ava). I am taking it down to Denham to show my mother. She has been unable to answer all the letters she has received or to acknowledge all the lovely wreaths sent, but she was most grateful to the senders and was pleased at the R.B.N.A. and the British College of Nurses remembering that his maiden speech in the House of Lords had been made in support of their Bill (Nurses' Registration).

"His grave was perfectly beautiful with all the lovely wreaths, the little cemetery was really a blaze of colour. It is a very small circular place ringed round with tall yews. and in the centre is a very tall Celtic cross of grey granite erected to the memory of my father and the three other brothers, a really ideal spot, I wish it could have been painted that day. Please specially thank the givers of that wreath and tell them what pleasure their kind remembrance of my brother gave us all."

5. Letter from Mrs. Nixon, a "London Week" guest, expressing grateful pleasure for her visit, "the greatest pleasure of the visit was of course the Dinner and Annual Meeting. . . . I was greatly charmed with the College and am sorry I can see so little of it. I think the other guests will all agree with me that our visit was a great success."

6. Letter from Mrs. Keynes, J.P., President National Council of Women:—

"I have just returned home from a holiday abroad and found the August number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING awaiting me.

"The Report of the Annual Dinner of the British College of Nurses, in which I had the honour and pleasure of being included as a guest, is most interesting. I am much indebted to you for sending it to me, and still more for your kindness in permitting me to participate in your celebrations."

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