

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The forty-ninth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, November 22nd, 1930, at 2.15 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and all the Members of the Council were present.

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

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

The President reported that the following letter acknowledging a copy of the Resolution expressing the loyal appreciation and deep debt of gratitude of Registered Nurses to the late Sir Richard Barnett, had been received from his cousin, Mr. John A. Whieldon:—

Dear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,—Will you please accept yourself and convey also to your Council and members my heartiest thanks, and my daughter's, for all your and their loving kindness and sympathy in these last sad weeks, manifested in so many ways, and not least by attendance at Church, and the magnificent floral offerings. I was also deeply touched by the personal telephone message I received from the nurses on the afternoon of the funeral; it was an act worthy of your profession. God bless you all!

Again my best thanks.

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN A. WHIELDON.

The Retention of the Names of Thieves on the State Register of Nurses.

A large number of letters were read in reply and acknowledgment of the protest sent from the College—at the decision of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to retain the names of two more thieves convicted in a Court of Law, on the State Register of Nurses, thus covering criminals to the danger of the public, and degrading the moral standard of the Register.

It was agreed to take further action on the matter especially in protesting against the autocratic attitude of Dr. John Buchan, who had in Council denied to Registered Nurses the right of any expression of opinion concerning their own professional affairs, where the actions of the General Nursing Council were concerned—actions considered by Registered Nurses to be demoralising and injurious to the ethical standards of their profession, and calculated to injure it in the opinion of the public.

Central Preliminary Training School for Probationers.

In reply to inquiries the following letter was reported from Miss D. E. Bannon, Matron-in-Chief, on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health, London County Council.

Dear Madam,—In reply to your letter dated October 30th, inquiring whether the London County Council propose to establish a Preliminary Training School for Nurses, this question has been under consideration, but as there is no prospect at the present time, nor, indeed, in the immediate future, of such an establishment being organised by the London County Council, we think it would be admirable if the British College of Nurses were to open a Preliminary Training School for Nurses on the lines indicated in your letter.

If the Council of the British College decides to start this Training School, may I wish the scheme every possible success, and I shall be very glad to hear from you later when you are able to give me any further information on the matter, that I may have some idea of when the School is likely to open, as it will, I am sure, be a great asset in obtaining candidates for training.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

D. E. BANNON.

Miss Bannon had been thanked for her courteous reply, and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Education Committee for further consideration.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter from Dr. R. G. Cochrane consenting to Lecture on Leprosy.

2. Letter from Dr. Heaf consenting to give four Lectures on Tuberculosis Treatment.

3. Replies *re* Administrative Classes from the following Matrons:

(a) Miss Allbutt, Fulham Hospital.

(b) Miss R. Darbyshire, University College Hospital.

(c) Miss A. Lloyd-Still, St. Thomas's Hospital.

(d) Miss Tisdale, Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street.

(e) Miss Hearder, Bethlem Royal Hospital,

(f) Miss Quinlan, Brook Fever Hospital.

4. Syllabus from Registrar, University of London, *re* Mr. Allan Walker's Lectures and Lecture Visits to places of historic interest in London.

5. Letter from Dr. Thomas Anderson of St. John's, Newfoundland, stating that the Asylum for the Insane at St. John's was being reorganised, and inviting help from the College in obtaining a mental trained head of the Nursing Department.

It was agreed to recommend a suitable candidate holding the dual qualification of general training and mental training.

Letter from the Registrar.

General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

A letter was read from Miss M. S. Riddell stating that the letter and resolution of protest against the names of thieves being retained on the State Register—dated *November 26th*, 1929, was read at the Meeting of the Council on *October 24th*, 1930, and that it had been placed on the Minutes. This communication from the Registrar did not contain the hope expressed by Dr. John Buchan, that "in replying to the letters the Council would make it clear that they were not going to enter into any discussion on a matter which was entirely their own province." The Council of the British College of Nurses does not agree that any nursing question is "entirely the province" of persons who are not nurses. The reception of Miss Riddell's letter had been formally acknowledged. Further correspondence on the matter with the General Nursing Council was considered unnecessary.

6. Letter from Miss B. Gandour, notifying that she had passed the Central Midwives Board Examination, for which she had received a grant of £35. The Council directed that its congratulations be sent to her.

7. Letter from Miss M. E. Owen that she intended to take the Health Visitors' Course for which she had been given a grant at Battersea Polytechnic.

8. Letter of thanks from Miss E. M. Ward for Midwifery Grant of £35.

9. Letters were read from members unable to work owing to sickness, and it was agreed to offer them financial assistance.

THANKS FOR DIPLOMAS.

The recipients of Diplomas write expressing thanks and admiration for it and pride in possessing it. Miss Emily Kew writes: "The Diploma arrived safely. I am very proud of it. It shall always be near to remind me of so wonderful a cause.

"The Sub-Branch of our College you will be pleased to hear has been most kind to me, preventing me feeling lonely in a strange place, with their kind invitations to various functions and meetings. I am still making efforts with my acorn gathering!"

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)