

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Fortieth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on January 25th, 1930, at 2 p.m. The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the Chair, and the following members were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss S. A. Villiers (Vice-Presidents); Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss E. Kennedy, Miss I. Macdonald, and 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.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

Acting on the decision of the last Council Meeting, the President reported that communications had been sent, together with a copy of the Resolution adopted in reference to the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives, to the Minister of Health, the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, the Medical Members of the Houses of Lords and Commons, to the Public Health Department of the London County Council, and to the members of the Departmental Committee.

The Resolution recommended:—

(a) That there should be no dual control in the Government of the Profession of Midwives, and no transference of the powers of the Central Midwives Board to the Ministry of Health, and

(b) That entrance to the Profession of Midwives be restricted to Registered Nurses.

Many replies had been received, but apparently nursing opinion would receive little support from the lay and medical persons dealing with the training and control of Midwives. Several medical Members of Parliament are in favour of restricting the entrance to the profession of midwives to Registered Nurses, but are satisfied that at the present time this is not practicable. Dr. John L. Fairbairn, who, together with Mrs. Bruce Richmond, signed the Minority Report of the Departmental Committee, writes: "In regard to the second part of the resolution I would say that it is the feeling of all of us that entrance to the profession of midwives should be through a registered nurse, but unfortunately the conditions are not attractive enough, and the registered nurses who take the C.M.B. scarcely practise at all. Therefore, this is dependent on conditions being sufficiently attractive to get the work done by those who are both registered nurses and midwives."

The President said it should be the aim of the British College of Nurses to work for such improved conditions, as there was little hope of improvement in maternal mortality until such a skilled service was at the disposal of women in childbirth.

AFFILIATION WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

It was reported that at its meeting on January 24th (the previous day) the application for affiliation with the National Council of Women of Great Britain had been approved by the Executive Committee. The official

communication would be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter from Miss Mabel F. Hersey, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association. Miss Hersey wrote: "Before leaving England I would like to say again how much I enjoyed seeing your beautiful building, and all you have accomplished, also meeting the number of British Nurses I was fortunate in meeting the afternoon I was there. . . . I have enjoyed my time in England more than I can say."

2. Letter from Miss Jane C. Cowie, Matron of the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley: "I appreciate very much your kind sympathy at this time (of the cinema panic). We hope never to have a like experience. The children were carried in without previous warning, and those who brought them at first did not really know what had happened. The survivors, ill as they were, have recovered rapidly and only eleven remain in hospital."

3. Miss Mary Ritchie Thomson, Glasgow, writes: "I thought I would like to send you all at the College a line of greeting for the New Year, and wish it every possible success in the future."

"I also would like to tell you what a happy afternoon the Scottish Fellows and Members spent at Mrs. Strong's 'At Home' held in the Scottish Nurses' Club. The rooms were so prettily decorated with chrysanthemums, fine big fires made the place so cosy, and the tea with its delightful home-baked cakes was a great success. Our hostess was, as usual, in her element making us all happy, and we were so glad such a large number were able to be present, about 50 Fellows and Members, and we spent a really enjoyable afternoon seeing old friends and getting news of others."

"Mrs. Strong spoke with much feeling about the valuable work the British College of Nurses is doing for Nurses, and begged of us, one and all, to help by every means in our power to increase the membership and help the good work to go on, and I believe each one of us left firmly resolved to do whatever we could to further the cause."

4. Letter from Mrs. Elsie Robson, Stirling, expressing the opinion that all Fellows of the College should be permitted to wear robes. The President reminded the meeting that this matter had received some consideration on a previous occasion, and as no definite conclusion had been arrived at, it might be well to consider the matter again.

Mrs. Robson's letter was referred to the Education Committee for consideration and report.

5. Letter from Miss Norah A. Lennon reporting progress in her midwifery training at Middlesex Hospital, where the teaching is excellent.

6. Letter from Miss M. M. P. Siggers, St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, sending very best wishes to all officers of the College for a successful and happy New Year. Miss Siggers is working hard to interest her friends and colleagues in the work of the College, and is pleased to learn of expenditure on the reference and lending library for Fellows and Members, which she considers will be especially useful for those engaged in teaching.

6. Letter from Miss Muriel Harvey, Jamaica, expressing great pleasure at the arrival of her Diploma;

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