

April 11th.—Reception to meet Miss Meyboom and twenty Dutch Matrons and Nurses visiting London. 4 to 6.30 p.m. Tea.

April 26th.—Council Meeting. 2.15 p.m.

April 29th.—Meeting of Sister Tutors' Group. 6 p.m.

RECEPTION TO MISS MEYBOOM AND COLLEAGUES FROM HOLLAND.

Miss Meyboom, of Holland, so well known to many colleagues in this country, is visiting England with twenty-three Dutch Matrons and Nurses, and they have accepted the invitation of the Council of the College to attend a Reception at 39, Portland Place, from 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Friday, April 11th. Fellows and Members are invited to welcome the Dutch guests, and for this purpose they must apply for tickets to the Secretary, British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, W.1, so that adequate arrangements may be made.

DEBATE.

Debates on two subjects were arranged at the College for March 4th, when the President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the chair.

1. Should animal pets be kept in hospital?
2. Should nurses smoke in uniform?

We are glad to say that the title of the second had to be changed because no one, not even the proposer of the subject, was willing to argue that nurses *should* smoke in uniform, so Miss Henrietta Ballard presented a short paper, entitled, "Nurses Should Not Smoke in Uniform."

We print this month the debate on Animal Pets.

Should Animal Pets be Kept in Hospital?

FOR.

Miss Henrietta Ballard, who opened the debate on the above subject, said in part:—

As an animal lover, I, of course, would say yes—but not in surgical, infectious or lying-in wards.

In relation to the psychological effect on patients, it must be remembered that fear plays great part, and one finds, in children and mental patients especially, that the nearer one gets to home-like surroundings, the quicker one gets to the heart of the patient.

The child, uncontrollable on admission and in fear of the unknown, awakens to the fact that pussy is in the ward and wishes to stroke her when toys have been of no avail.

The mental patients often find much consolation in animals, and a certain amount of sublimation goes on to relieve their distorted minds. This is recognised as a useful outlet to some subconscious complex, and helps mind healing.

Chronic old patients, how they love these animals! I think of one who secretes all pieces for a cat devoted to her; it is all she has to think of.

Some may argue as to cleanliness, etc. I have never been without a pet, and have always found time to keep it clean, if necessary, and animals are easily taught and soon learn right and wrong and what is expected of them.

I maintain animals can quite well be kept in hospital and their companionship is worth any trouble they give.

AGAINST.

Miss Alice Russell, who disapproved of keeping pets in hospital, said:—

I am concluding that the animal is one person's pet, for a cat that is allowed to remain in the basement in order to catch mice can scarcely be described as a pet. Again, we are considering pets *in hospital*, not in the nurses' home.

Is it possible to attain the hospital ideal and standard of health and personal cleanliness in the case of pets? We most of us find it necessary to bath twice a day. It is true that I live in Bethnal Green. In most hospitals, I believe, the patients are bathed or bed-bathed two or three times a week, children every day; but I venture to suggest poor pussy would succumb, or seek another home

if subjected to such treatment. It is true we do not wash our cushions and rugs and so on in this way, but there is a very great difference between the inanimate cushion that stays where you put it and has no metabolic processes going on within, and the cat or dog that runs barefoot into the dirtiest of places, and because it is a living being is always producing within itself harmful waste materials that must be removed from the body. As carriers of infection I think disease may be mechanically transmitted on the animals' coats or feet.

The majority of those present were against keeping pets in hospitals.

THE PASSING OF A COUNCIL MEMBER.

We grieve to record the death of Miss Elizabeth Kennedy, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., daughter of the late David Kennedy, Esq., Dumfries, a Member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, which took place at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, after a painful illness which she endured with the greatest fortitude. Miss Kennedy was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the whole of her professional career was spent in the hospital to which she was devoted, as she was promoted first to be Night Sister and then to be Sister of Mary Ward, a position she held for 17 years. Her death is a great blow to her many friends as well as to the members of the Council of the British College of Nurses, on which she represented in its counsels an important branch of nursing, that of the Ward Sisters in the Training Schools. The responsibility of Ward Sisters in relation to the practical teaching of probationers was fully realised by Miss Kennedy, and her sound advice was always listened to in the Council with respect, while her bright and forceful personality made her presence always welcome.

Miss Kennedy's chief interest was in connection with the higher education of Nurses, and she desired to further all possible means which could lead to the establishment of scholarships and travelling bursaries, for, as she herself said, her experience as a Sister had taught her that the woman with sound education is the one who is quickest in feeling the psychological and mental outlook of the sick.

As we go to press a Memorial Service for Miss Kennedy is taking place in the Church of St. Bartholomew the Less, the British College of Nurses being represented by its President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (formerly Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital), Miss A. M. Bushby, and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C. (Members of the Council), and Miss G. 'R. Hale, R.R.C., Secretary. The Council also sent flowers in token of respect and sorrow. After the service, cremation will take place, and the ashes will subsequently be taken to Scotland and interred.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE DUTCH NURSES.

Miss Meyboom and the party of Dutch nurses alluded to above arrived in London from Holland on April 6th, in order to spend a fortnight in England visiting nursing institutions and seeing the glories of London.

They were met at Victoria Station by Miss C. Liddiatt and conveyed to the headquarters of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., where they will stay during their visit. As they entered the building the British and the Dutch flags were flying side by side over the porch, and the Dutch National Anthem was played. Immediately afterwards, the Dutch nurses, quite spontaneously, sang the British National Anthem.

They were greatly gratified and honoured to receive from Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Association, a kind and gracious telegram of welcome. One of their first acts on Monday was to visit Florence Nightingale's grave at East Wellow, and to place a wreath upon it.

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