

English roses had been sent by the College to greet Miss Chaptal upon arrival in London.

HOMAGE TO MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

The President reported a request from the Regents of the Florence Nightingale Institute of Honorables at Los Angeles, to place a wreath at the base of the Florence Nightingale Statue on May 12th, the anniversary of her birth. She had referred the matter to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses, and the following members of the Committee had been nominated to take part in the ceremony: Miss M. Breay, Hon. Fellow of the Institute; Miss Villiers, Miss Dey, Miss Bushby, and Miss Sparshott. These ladies, together with Miss M. Huxley, had attended the ceremony, at which the President read the Citation.

LETTER FROM MR. A. FENNER BROCKWAY, M.P.

The following letter addressed to the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was read:—

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
12th May, 1931.

DEAR MADAM,

I have received so many letters regarding my Bill to establish minimum wages and maximum hours for the Nursing Profession that I should be grateful if you would allow me to make the following points clear:

(1) I introduced the Bill because I was approached by Nurses in my own constituency during the General Election. I was the more ready to give them a pledge that I would try to introduce such a Bill because I was aware of the low wages and long hours imposed upon so many nurses.

(2) The Bill has two simple objects: (a) to establish an eight-hour day as the general rule for the Profession (allowing for exceptional circumstances), and (b) to establish a minimum scale of wages for probationers and nurses. I took, for the latter, the actual scales in operation in certain hospitals.

(3) If this Bill is not regarded as satisfactory in this respect, I shall be very glad to consider amendments for its improvement in Committee.

(4) The one substantial criticism which I have seen (and I have carefully read the comments of the Nursing Journals) is that the effect of the Bill might be to encourage the employment of non-registered nurses. I am quite prepared to support proposals to restrict employment to trained nurses.

(5) The view has been expressed that Probationers should be regarded as students rather than as wage-earners. Under present conditions this would exclude working-class girls, who form the majority in the Profession. The work probationers do deserves adequate recognition.

(6) I have been criticised for not consulting the College of Nursing before the Bill was drafted. The Secretary of the College was approached on my behalf, and asked (a) if she had any suggestions to make for inclusion in the Bill, and (b) if the figures contained in the Labour Party Report on the Nursing Profession were still accurate. She replied (a) that the College would consider the Bill after it had been submitted to the House of Commons, and (b) that, whilst improvements had taken place in certain hospitals, the figures remained substantially correct.

(7) I have been overwhelmed by letters from nurses in support of the Bill. I am confident that a plebiscite would show that I have the support of the vast majority of members of the Nursing Profession. I intend to continue to bring the facts of nursing conditions to the notice of the public and Parliament, and I ask for the co-operation of members of the Profession in a sustained effort to get rid of the present injustices.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) A. FENNER BROCKWAY.

After discussion the following resolution was adopted:—

"That the Council of the British College of Nurses invite Mr. A. Fenner Brockway, M.P., to receive members of the Council to lay before him their views on the Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill."

(2) Letter of thanks from Miss F. Barry, Hon. Secretary, St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations, notifying that

the name of the College and of the President would be inscribed in the Golden Book at Rouen.

(3) Letter from Miss M. E. Owen, thanking the Council for Health Visitors Grant, stating that she was progressing with studies, and hoped to procure a post in London.

(4) Letter from Miss M. E. Margerison, suggesting that a College blazer would be acceptable to many Fellows and Members of the College. The Council agreed to consider the suggestion.

(5) Thanks for Diplomas.

(6) Letter and Resolution from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship re adequate representation of women on all bodies in framing and working the new Constitution of India, and especially as a first step on the reconstituted Federal Structure Committee of the Round Table Conference.

The Council approved the resolution. Many other communications were received and considered.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

All the applications received were approved and the candidates were elected.

Upon payment up to date of subscriptions in arrears a Fellow was reinstated.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement.

SOCIAL SCHEMES REPORT.

Miss I. Macdonald, Chairman of the Committee, presented a short report as follows:—

The "At Home" given to Sister Tutors and their friends by Miss H. G. Ballard on April 30th, was a very successful function indeed, and a larger number of the younger Fellows and Members than usual were present, together with their friends. The College was beautifully decorated for the occasion with flowers sent by Miss A. Macwilliam, Matron of the Totnes Hospital.

Miss Ballard, wearing her Councillor's robes, received her guests, and after a delightful tea, they inspected all the interesting features of the College, expressing much appreciation of the variety of treasures, of which we are so quickly acquiring a fine collection.

Arrangements for the History of Nursing Dinner in October were further discussed, and it was realised that a very keen interest in it must be aroused to make it an educational success. It was reported that several of the characters had been allotted.

The President hoped she might represent Legal Status and carry the State Register of Nurses on the Barnett Memorial Silver Platter.

Mrs. Christian Bedford Fenwick would impersonate Hygeia and needed the support of four appropriate beautiful persons as Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

Miss Isabel Macdonald would be Science; Miss D. K. Graham, Knowledge; St. Hilda of Whitby, Miss Beatrice Cutler; Miss Bushby, Queen Philippa of Hainault; Mrs. John Temple, an Abbess of Royal Birth; Miss K. M. Latham, Edina de Rittle, Lay Nurse, 13th Century, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss K. A. Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth Fry. Offers of help were under consideration, and it was agreed to hold a meeting at an early date to consider the arrangements.

The Report was approved.

REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss Bushby, Chairman of the History of Nursing Section reported: Since the last meeting of the Council the following have been obtained and paid for by the Secretary out of the money given by the Councillors: Life of Benjamin Jowett, 8s. 6d.; Poems of Arthur Hugh Clough, 3s. 3d.; Memories of the Crimea, by Sister Mary Aloysius, 1s.; The Magdalen Hospital, 6s. 6d.; Notes on

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