

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The fifty-sixth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, June 20th, at 2.15 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and the following members were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., *Vice-Presidents*; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss E. Brodie, Miss Norah Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*; and Miss A. M. Bright 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.

A telegram and letter of thanks was read from Miss E. J. Haswell to the President and Council for confirming her nomination for election as a member of the Council.

#### Letter to Mr. Fenner-Brockway, M.P., re the Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill.

By direction of the Council the following letter had been addressed to Mr. A. Fenner-Brockway:—

DEAR SIR,

Your letter addressed to the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is the official organ of the British College of Nurses, was brought before the Council by the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who is also the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

As this progressive and self-governing organisation had no opportunity of conferring with you before you drafted a Bill affecting so intimately the economic, educational and ethical standards of the Nursing Profession, my Council decided to ask you to receive a few of its members so that they may place before you their expert opinion concerning their own affairs.

As a Trade Unionist you will, we feel sure, realise the justice of such consultation concerning the details of any legislation calculated to control the conditions of service of thousands of working women, which you propose to promote.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,  
*Secretary.*

It was reported that no reply had been received, and that the Prime Minister had refused time for the consideration of the Bill in the House of Commons.

Other matters were reported, and it was agreed to communicate with the Secretary of the Coroners' Association on the matter of providing female attendants in public mortuaries to handle the bodies of dead women.

A number of letters were reported from Public Authorities on the matter.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter of regret from Miss H. G. Ballard at inability to attend the meeting; and enclosing an interesting letter on Nurses' organisation from a fellow Sister-Tutor. It was agreed that she should be invited to meet members of Council to confer with her on the business arising.

2. Letter from a Matron Fellow reporting the very satisfactory result of legal help provided for her in the investigation of her work and department—conducted by the Ministry of Health—after which the investigator "finds nothing wrong, either with me professionally or my administration . . . on the contrary she has told the Committee that the Home is well run and has an excellent record . . . After the enquiry she informed the Committee where they were in the wrong and that I had been very badly treated."

The President emphasised the value of legal protection for nurses, and it was their duty to combine in an association which provided it. The Council sent their congratulations and good wishes to the colleague in question.

3. Letter from Miss M. M. Sim, from St. John's, Newfoundland, who had safely arrived to take up her duties as Matron of the Mental Hospital.

4. Letter from Miss P. Shekleton *re* a salute for women in connection with the memorials to soldiers who died in the War.

The Council were not at present prepared to recommend a new departure from the usual military salute used as occasion might require. Women of the Catholic faith often made the mark of the Cross on passing the Cenotaph.

5. Letters of appreciation from overseas of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSES.

6. Letter from Miss E. E. Ward informing the Council of Nursing conditions in New Zealand.

7. Several letters from Dominions asking for time to pay subscriptions owing to financial conditions and high rate of exchange.

8. Letters from Miss E. M. Ward and Miss H. L. Hornagold notifying that they had successfully passed the Central Midwives' Board Examination. The Council sent congratulations.

9. Letters of applications for grants referred to the Education Committee.

10. Letter of thanks from Miss E. L. Macaulay *re* visit to College of Mr. Lui, a Chinese Male Nurse, who greatly appreciated his reception.

11. Letters of sincere thanks from the following members of the Class on Hospital Administration:—

Miss E. Bright-Robinson, Miss Ellen Cross, Miss G. E. Davies, Miss J. C. Goudie, Miss A. T. Hyde, Miss E. J. Jenkins, Miss D. M. Moase, Miss C. Ping, Miss I. G. Stevens, and Miss V. Spencer-Jones.

Many of the Class entered papers on the visits for the two guinea prize.

12. Letter of thanks from a member for grant of £5 towards hospital treatment.

13. Many letters of thanks for diplomas.

Other correspondence was considered.

#### ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

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

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement; £73 10s. had been received in subscriptions since the last meeting.

#### REPORT OF CONJOINT COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIAL SCHEMES AND HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

The report stated that several invitations had been sent out inviting impersonation and support of the proposed History of Nursing Dinner in October.

The following ladies had consented to take part in the procession:—

Mrs. Douglas Derry—The Element Water.

Miss B. Treasure—Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I.

Miss Blacklock—Phoebe of Cenchrea.

Miss Jessie Holmes—A Sister of St. Martha (12th century).

Miss E. Brodie—Mlle. le Gras, the helper of St. Vincent de Paul.

Miss Norah Farrant—St. Catherine of Siena.

Mrs. Berens Dowdeswell—Queen Matilda, wife of King Stephen.

The Rev. George Berens Dowdeswell—St. Vincent de Paul.

Replies had not yet been received to several invitations. Miss Dorothy Snell, of Rome, had been asked to impersonate "The Spirit of Nursing," and Donna Maria Maraini Guerriere Gonzaga, Marcella, the great philanthropic Roman matron.

Miss M. S. Cochrane—A Sister of the Order of St. Esprit. Three pretty young women about 5 ft. 6 in. in height were still needed for the Elements—Earth, Air and Fire.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)