

held monthly at the College, and under the very able Chairmanship of Miss D. K. Graham, and its energetic Secretary, the Group has steadily increased in numbers and in influence. The First Annual Meeting of the Group was held on April 30th, when Miss H. G. Ballard, the Hon. Secretary, gave generous hospitality to Sister Tutors and their friends. A Sister Tutors' League inspired by this Group and formed during the year now numbers more than sixty members, and the League has been affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Provision for Legal Protection.

The Council has carefully watched events calculated to affect the economic security of its Fellows and Members, and taken the necessary steps to safeguard this when it appeared likely that it might be affected prejudicially.

The provision made by the College for the legal protection of its Fellows and Members under certain defined conditions is giving excellent results. As the Medical Defence Societies have proved, when it is made clear that a Fellow or Member has the support of her financially strong College, further steps for her legal protection have usually become unnecessary, and in the few cases when action on her behalf has been taken, the results have been most successful. Moreover, the mental relief afforded by powerful support and advice on her difficulties has been gratefully stressed by several of those so assisted. The Council feel that nurses should understand that while two strong Medical Societies exist for the legal protection of medical practitioners, this College is the only body which affords such help to the Nursing profession, and this is done, not for the payment of a special subscription as by the Medical Societies, but as part of the great advantages this College affords its Fellows and Members.

Benevolent Help.

Benevolent Grants have been made in several instances to Fellows and Members in sickness or adversity, and these have been gratefully acknowledged.

The G.N.C. and Disciplinary Cases.

The Council has taken public action in protesting to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales against the retention of criminals on the State Register of Nurses. It has further presented a Protest to the Medical Committee in the House of Commons, communicated with the Ministry of Health, and circularised the Press on the matter.

During the present year six disciplinary cases have been heard by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, four of Registered Nurses proved guilty of theft in courts of law, one of a Registered Nurse convicted of being drunk and disorderly, and one of a Registered Nurse who forged a doctor's signature to a prescription, and obtained morphine sulphate thereby.

There is much satisfaction that the Council directed that the names of all these nurses should be removed from the Register.

Standard of Knowledge of Nurse Examiners.

The following Resolution has been passed by the Council, and sent to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

"That in the opinion of the British College of Nurses, Nurse Examiners to the General Nursing Council should be required to pass an appropriate Examination before being eligible for appointment."

The Death of Major Sir Richard Whieldon Barnett.

At the Meeting of the Council of the College on October 25th, the President reported the death of Major Sir Richard Barnett, their very dear and loyal friend, who had represented their interests in the House of Commons

from 1919 to 1929. She stated that by request a deputation of the Council attended the funeral service at Christ Church, Albany Street, N.W., on October 22nd, in their Robes. A beautiful wreath was sent from the College, inscribed quite simply "With Homage."

The President proposed from the Chair that the Council put on record by resolution its loyal appreciation and the deep debt of gratitude owed by all Registered Nurses to the late Sir Richard Barnett.

Resolution.

The following Resolution was agreed unanimously:—

"That this Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses desires to place on record its deep sense of the irreparable loss sustained by the Nursing Profession by the death of Major Sir Richard Barnett, whose noble service in the House of Commons, in support of the highest ideals of Nursing, has helped to elevate its ethical standards throughout the world."

A vote of condolence with Sir Richard's family was also passed unanimously.

Registration Day.

PRESENTATION OF THE SILVER PLATTER IN MEMORY OF MAJOR SIR RICHARD BARNETT.

On Saturday, December 20th, at the conclusion of the Council business, a Reception was held of the subscribers to the Memorial to the late Sir Richard Barnett.

The Programme included the reading for the first time of the Epilogue written by the late Miss Wilhelmina Mollett to the Pageant designed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, on the "Evolution of Trained Nursing and the Right of Life to Health," on the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts on December 23rd, 1919, after thirty years' struggle for reform.

The Presentation of the Barnett Memorial Silver Platter to the British College of Nurses by sixty grateful Registered Nurses, and the lighting and cutting the State Registration Cake.

The College and the Community.

The Council has done valuable work during the past year by sending a Deputation to the London County Council on Hospital arrangements; by passing and sending resolutions to the Ministry of Health, the Royal Commission on Local Government Officers, the National Council of Women, the London County Council and other public bodies on nursing matters, and to the Coroners of England on the need for female attendance on women in public mortuaries; and to Members of Parliament with regard to the Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill, introduced into the House of Commons, asking for this measure to be strongly opposed.

When under "Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons" on Thursday, February 26th, the Bill came up for Second Reading, Sir John Ganzoni (Member for Ipswich) rose in his place and "objected," thus rendering the Nursing Profession a very signal service, for which it owes him sincere gratitude. According to rule the Bill could not be proceeded with, and the Second Reading was deferred.

The Prime Minister, when questioned later by Mr. Fenner Brockway, held out no hope of time being found for the discussion of the Bill.

L.C.C. DEPUTATION RE SALARIES AND SERVICE.

A Deputation of the College attended on the Clerk of the London County Council on June 18th, 1930, in connection with nursing under the 1929 Local Government Act, and laid great stress on the necessity of supporting the authority of the Matron in her own department, if good discipline is to be maintained, and the danger to the economic stability of Registered Nurses by the employment of semi-trained

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