

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Fifty-ninth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, October 24th, 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 N. Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*; and Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss E. J. Haswell, *Members*.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

Letters of regret at inability to attend were read from Miss A. M. Bright and Miss E. Brodie.

BUSINESS ARISING.

The Need for Female Attendants in Public Mortuaries.

The following additional replies from public authorities were reported:—

(a) From the Chief Constable, Burnley, "There are in a year very few dead females to be dealt with in this Borough, and these are always dealt with by women."

(b) *No action taken.*

From Town Clerk, Lambeth . . . "in connection with this matter the Council was given to understand by the Metropolitan Boroughs' Joint Standing Committee, on which it is represented, that the Coroners in London had come to the conclusion that there were such grave and obvious objections to the proposal set out in the Resolution that they were unable to recommend its adoption, and the Council concurred in this view."

(c) Town Clerk, Oxford . . . "whilst the Committee agree with the principle advocated therein, no action can be taken at present owing to the need for economy."

(d) Town Clerk, Poplar, E.14. "I have to state that the appropriate Committee have had the suggestion under consideration and have decided to take no action thereon."

(e) Town Clerk, Westminster . . . "I have to inform you that the City Council resolved to take no action in the matter."

(f) Town Clerk, Nottingham . . . "I am in receipt of your letter of 1st inst., the contents of which are noted."

(g) Town Clerks of Woolwich, Shoreditch, and Portsmouth state that letters shall receive attention.

The following replies have been received to a letter sent to the Town Clerks of the Borough Councils where Female Attendants are now employed in Public Mortuaries, enquiring:—

(1) If the person employed is a whole time officer, and

(2) What rate of remuneration is paid to this officer.

(h) Town Clerk, Chatham, not a whole time officer, and paid at the rate of 5s. per case.

(i) Town Clerk, Peterborough, not a whole time officer, remuneration varies according to the time occupied and the services rendered.

(j) Town Clerk, Hereford, not a whole time officer, remuneration 7s. 6d. per case.

(k) Town Clerk, St. Marylebone, W.1., a whole time officer. £3 10s. per week, plus emoluments, *viz.*, rooms, light and fuel, etc.

(l) Town Clerk, Exeter, part time officer, and paid at the rate of 5s. per case.

(m) Town Clerk, Oldham, not a whole time officer, and paid at the rate of 8s. per case. Female attendants do not attend post-mortem cases.

(n) Town Clerk, Reading, not a whole time officer, and paid at the rate of 2s. 6d. per case—wife of mortuary attendant.

Letters from Miss A. M. Peterkin, General Superintendent, Queen's Institute for District Nursing, in reply to letter

from the College asking for information *re* Resolution on the necessity for female attendants in Public Mortuaries and expressing sympathy with the Resolution and asking for information.

THE EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS.

The following Correspondence was reported between the British College of Nurses and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.
6th October, 1931.

To the Chairman and Members
of the General Nursing Council
for England and Wales.

MADAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to inform you that a letter dated 18th September last expressing the opinion of your Education Committee to which it was not addressed, was placed before my Council at a recent meeting, and I am instructed to inform you that they are still of opinion that Registered Nurses have a right to address communications *direct* to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the majority of whose members they elect, and that they formally protest against such communications being withheld from the Council in Meeting assembled.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
ALICE STEWART BRYSON, *Secretary*.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.
20, Portland Place, London, W.1.
7th October, 1931.

DEAR MADAM,—

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of October 6th, addressed to the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. RIDDELL, *Registrar*.

The Secretary,
The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place,
London, W.1.

CONFERENCE OF NURSES PROPOSED BY THE NURSES' LEAGUE OF THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, BRADFORD.

Further correspondence had taken place between the College and Miss Jessie W. Davies, President of the Royal Infirmary, Bradford Nurses' League, in reference to a proposed Conference of Nurses to discuss a united plan of action and adopt a policy concerning the organisation of shorter hours and better pay for nurses.

Miss Jessie W. Davies wrote to the Secretary on 21st October, 1931:—

"In answer to your letter received this morning—at a meeting held recently the Council discussed the Conference suggested at the Annual Meeting of our League.

So far none of the other three Societies have communicated their opinion on the convening of a Conference.

We consider that owing to the acute financial crisis of the country that has arisen since the suggestion that it would be inadvisable to hold such a Conference at the moment, and we are of opinion that the whole subject relating to shorter hours and better pay for Nurses should be held in abeyance until the country is again prosperous and settled.

In the future when conditions appear more hopeful we trust our suggestion of a Conference will again receive consideration."

The President stated that the four organisations invited to participate in the Conference were: The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the Royal British

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