

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Sixtieth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, November 21st, at 2.15 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and all members of the Council were present with the exception of Miss E. Brodie.

#### BUSINESS ARISING.

#### The Need for Female Attendants in Public Mortuaries.

1 (a) Letter from Miss Peterkin, giving suggestions whereby suitable women might be employed to attend in Public Mortuaries.

(b) Letter from the Town Clerk, Leicester, informing the Council that the handling of dead women in the Leicester mortuary is carried out by three Police Matrons, one of whom is always on duty, and that in addition to their pay as Police Matrons they are paid a small fee on each occasion their services are required at the mortuary.

(c) Letter from the Town Clerk, Woolwich, stating that, after consideration the appropriate Committee of the Council had decided not to take any action in the matter.

(d) Reply sent from the College to the Town Clerk, Guildford, who asked for the name of a person, or a body of persons, who would be prepared to undertake the duty. The recommendations of Miss Peterkin was embodied in the reply.

2. Copies of letters sent by the College of Nursing to the Bradford and Leicester Leagues of Nurses; and copy of a letter circulated by the College to Governors of hospitals re Nursing Profession Wages and Hours Bill, with schedule of nurses' salaries approved by the College.

Other matters were reported.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter of regret from Miss E. Brodie at inability to attend.

2. The President reported the death of Miss Annie Evelina Hulme, a Foundation Fellow of the College, and spoke with gratitude of her long years of service to the profession in support of the Movement for the State Registration of Nurses, the Matrons' Council, and the National and International Councils of Nurses. The Council received the sad news with deep regret, and directed that her name should be inscribed in the Book of Remembrance in connection with the College.

3. Letter from Sir Rennell Rodd, M.P. for Marylebone, in reply to congratulations sent from the College, in which he wrote: "I hear from my various Committee Rooms what an important part nurses have played in swelling the majority, which, I believe, was the largest in the London area."

4. Letter from Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., President South African Trained Nurses' Association, thanking the Council for hospitality and flowers in which she wrote: "The South African Trained Nurses' Association will also appreciate your kind thought and courtesy to me."

5. Letter from Miss J. E. Pritchard, F.B.C.N., Lady Superintendent, King Edward VII Order of Nurses in South Africa, in which she expresses thanks for her Diploma, and adds: "It is most beautifully got up, and I am very glad to have it to take with me back to South Africa. I have just been describing the British College to some friends; one can only describe the rooms as having an air of 'elegance' rarely seen nowadays. . . . I thought it a most restful place."

Miss Pritchard appreciated the "Adam" style of decoration—especially the fine "Flaxman" Lecture Hall.

6. Letter from Miss M. M. Sim, F.B.C.N., St. John's, Newfoundland, enclosing report of the Grand Jury Present-

ment to the Honourable Judges of the Supreme Court on their inspection of the Asylum for the Insane, in which it is stated "That it gives us very great pleasure to report to your lordships that no words of ours can portray the deep satisfaction we felt at the excellent conditions in which we found this institution." Dr. Anderson, Medical Superintendent, and Miss M. M. Sim, Matron, are individually given the highest praise for their administrative ability.

7. Letter from Miss L. J. Cakebread, from Olho d'Oqua, Brazil, announcing her return to England to be married. "I received my proposal of marriage," she writes, "by Air Mail, so I accepted by cable." The Council realised that nothing could be more up-to-date, and sympathised with the bride-elect in her evident happiness.

8. Letter from Miss Sallie Round, of All Saints Dispensary, Panvel, Bombay, India, asking for a grant of £10 for two reasons: "(1) To attend as a Delegate the All India Women's Conference to be held in Madras the last week of this year, to represent Panvel and speak on the medical work in the Konkaw villages. It is a great event and I am longing to go. I'm to plead for more doctors, nurses and midwives for these villages. Just think, amongst a population of 90,000, I'm the only fully qualified nurse; there are several trained midwives, seven in all, but only two, I think, holding the Bombay Diploma, the rest are trained in their own surroundings. There are only three Maternity Homes, one at Alibay, entailing a boat journey across the Creek, this is 40 miles from here, one in Panvel town, and the All Saints' Dispensary on the outskirts. I'm only asking for help for my railway fare of about £4.

"The second object is that I very much want to go to the Leper Asylum to learn something of this dread disease. The *Indian Medical Journal* advises all those who are doing medical work to get at least a fortnight's training. I get quite a number of patients suffering from leprosy at the dispensary, and I wish to be able to advise the right type to go to an asylum for treatment, and to relieve the advanced cases—and thus prevent the spread of the disease. I have a friend at Dieppoli, one of the best asylums in India, and she has promised to show me and teach me all she can. I shall just have my travelling expenses and board to find, about £6. The All Saints Community is very poor, and as I only have pocket-money I can only save a little towards this, so I shall do both things in my holiday which falls due at the end of the year. I have been here 10 years, and can speak the Marathi language fairly well, so I feel that any fresh knowledge and progress I can make will further the work here. I should like my College Badge in the event of my going to Madras, as I shall be in uniform."

The President reported that as soon as she received this appeal from Miss Round, and pending the meeting of the Council, she invited the Treasurer to consider it, and she was pleased to report that £15 was sent to Miss Round at once—as she felt sure the Council would greatly appreciate the spirit of the appeal, and wish to further any good work in India.

The Council thoroughly approved the grant.

A letter from Miss F. E. Bazeley, forwarded a gift of 30s. from Miss A. F. Russell, for library steps for the College, and reported that she has passed successfully Part A of the examination for the Diploma in Nursing. Miss Bazeley reported her own happiness in the work of a "Ranyard" district nurse. "It is a joy to reach the poor people in their homes and to give them the best one can."

It was reported that a letter had been sent from the President to the 15 women newly-elected Members of Parliament, expressing the hope that they would find time to take an interest in any matters which might affect the

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