

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Fifty-first meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, January 24th, at 2.15 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present:—Miss E. Brodie, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Norah Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C. *Fellows*; and Miss H. G. Ballard, 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.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

1. A letter of regret at inability to attend was received from Miss M. Breay, Vice-President, and the Council sent her a message wishing her a speedy recovery from her recent illness.

#### Telegram from H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught.

The President read the following letter which had been sent to Her Royal Highness, Princess Arthur of Connaught, on January 7th:—

MADAM,

The Council of the British College of Nurses desire respectfully to tender to your Royal Highness their sympathy, in your bereavement on the death of your revered mother the Princess Royal.

(Signed) ETHEL G. FENWICK,  
*President.*

To which Her Royal Highness had telegraphed the following acknowledgment:—

"My heartfelt thanks for your message of sympathy on behalf of the British College of Nurses."

ALEXANDRA.

2. Letter from Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith conveying to the Council her deep appreciation for their kind message of thanks sent to her, which gave her the greatest pleasure to receive.

3. Letter from Mrs. Townsend regretting as she lived out of London, she could not attend the Lectures, and hoping in the future lectures might be arranged in the big towns.

The Council desired Mrs. Townsend to be informed that it had already been agreed that lectures could be arranged in local centres — if desired by a sufficient number of members.

4. Correspondence with the Mayor of St. Marylebone and the Borough Engineer re the fouling of the pavements by dogs in Portland Place and the cleansing of the pavements. The President reported that the police had powers to deal with the matter, and her request that notices should be posted informing the public that this nuisance was prohibited had received attention, and notices had been displayed and a marked improvement had resulted.

5. Letter of invitation for a representative of the College to attend the Annual Dinner of the Women Public Health Officers' Association.

Miss D. K. Graham was appointed to attend.

6. Several letters of disapproval from Scotland enclosing an article on "Nursing in the Home," by Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, which appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* on January 7th.

The Council was of opinion that the writers should have expressed their opinion in the *Glasgow Herald*. The article would receive comment in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

7. Letter from Mrs. C. D. Conley, Burnside, S. Australia: "I have again changed my address and this I expect to be permanent. I am occupying a Cottage Home with my

mother; they are cottages endowed for retired professional women; mother is an artist and is 80 years of age; the cottage will later come to me for my life at a rental of 10s. a week. We are very comfortable; the places have every possible convenience and pretty gardens. I feel I am very fortunate. Finance is in a bad way here and nurses are having a very hard time. I do not know how some of them are living. I have a permanent position as a district nurse in the poorest quarter of the city; all the patients are either on the dole or pensions. We are hoping things will soon be better as I think S. Australia is the worst State at present, but the whole world seems to be on end; something surely must happen soon to straighten things out; it is costing S. Australia £14,000 a week to feed the unemployed. I always enjoy the JOURNAL and read it from cover to cover."

The writer had been thanked for her interesting letter.

8. Letter from Miss M. E. Misner, Kapuskasing, Ontario, expressing warm and continued interest in the College and all its progress, hoping to get new members, and closing with ardent wishes for a most prosperous and profitable year for the College, and wishing the Secretary all success and pleasure in her post. This kind letter ends: "I absorb with interest everything written in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

9. Letter from a Fellow in Glasgow who writes: "The state of apathy of the nurses in this country regarding their own best interests is appalling; they think of nothing but trivialities, and most of them are in what we may call heathen darkness, and seem proud of it. I think our College has done and is doing wonders, but I cannot see how I am going to get my acorn this year as things are."

The President referred to the fact that Scottish Nurses had very limited powers and representation on their Governing Body—the General Nursing Council for Scotland. The Chairman of Council was a layman, the Vice-Chairman a medical man—who was also Convener of the Education and Examination Committee—the Convener of the Finance Committee was a layman, the Convener of the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee was a medical man, and the only committee sufficiently trivial and unworthy of male dominance was the Uniform Committee—over this a nurse was permitted to preside!

10. Letter from Miss L. Peat, from Calgary, Canada: "I do enjoy the JOURNAL so much; am sending a beautiful picture of Lake Louise for the College." The Council sent a message of warm appreciation of the gift.

11. Letter of thanks from Miss M. E. Owen for cheque for £25 to take Health Visitors Course and reporting: "I am very happy in my work at the Battersea Polytechnic, and find it very interesting."

12. Letter from Miss Norah Green, General Secretary, National Council of Women, asking for the name of the Delegate of the College to attend the Annual Meeting in Aberdeen, June, 1931.

Miss E. Brodie, Councillor, Matron of the Royal Mental Hospital, Glasgow, was appointed to attend, and consented to do so.

13. A grant was recommended to a Member in financial need.

Miss Bright kindly offered to pay the subscription of another member in distress.

14. Many letters of thanks for Diplomas were received, all expressing pride and pleasure in possessing them.

Other letters were considered and action agreed.

#### ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

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

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