

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Fifty-second meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, February 21st, 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 Norah Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., *Fellows*; and Miss H. G. Ballard 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.

Business arising out of the Minutes was reported.

The Book containing the names, handsomely inscribed, of the 60 Registered Nurses who subscribed to the Sir Richard Barnett Memorial Piece of Plate was presented.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letters from Miss Brodie and Miss Bright regretting inability to attend were received.

2. Correspondence *re* legal protection of a Fellow was considered. It had been decided that the Fellow in question should be represented by a solicitor, and her interests protected, as the methods of the Committee in excluding her from meetings where her department was discussed might result in professional damage, as she was not placed in a position to defend herself.

3. Letter from Miss Alice Reeves, Dublin, consenting to act as the representative of the Council in the Irish Free State for the purpose of taking the Obligation by Fellows and Members.

4. Letter from Miss R. L. Bone, Matron Tropical Diseases Hospital *re* result of examination. Both Miss E. S. Laing and Miss M. W. Curtin, to whom grants had been made to attend a Course of Lectures, had passed the examination, the former with a high percentage of marks, and have been granted a certificate.

All the ten nurses attached to the Hospital passed the examination, the highest marks being gained by Sister Maddox, trained at the Westminster Hospital.

5. Letters from Miss E. S. Laing and Miss M. W. Curtin, notifying that they had passed the examination for the Tropical Diseases Course, and thanking the Council for grants.

Miss E. Barry, F.B.C.N., who also attended the Course, had passed the examination.

6. Interesting and descriptive letter of Christmas festivities to the patients from Miss Sallie Round, of the All Saints Dispensary, Panvel, District Kolaba, Bombay, India. The Party was evidently immensely popular with the 319 guests, and "gifts of sweets, etc., were required in great abundance."

Miss Round concludes: "Dear Friends,—I thank you all most sincerely for your ready help. I could not possibly have such a Party, if you did not provide the things. I've practically nothing left to start preparing for the next one, so if you have any small bits of pretty coloured material please make them into bonnets or bags, the bigger pieces into frocks for the babies, also a few small dolls would be most thankfully received. The Indian girlie loves a dolly. I only hope all the Christmas Parties at home were as successful as ours."

A member of Council promised to help this good work.

7. Letters of thanks for tickets for Mr. Allan Walker's Lectures (personally conducted) at Westminster Abbey.

8. Letter from Miss G. Le Geyt *re* evidence at the Royal Commission on Local Government Service.

The President reported that as the matter was one of importance to the Nursing Profession as a whole she had invited Miss Le Geyt to attend and address the Council, which she had consented to do at 4 p.m. Consideration of the letter was deferred.

9. Letters of thanks for benevolent grants.

Other correspondence was considered.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement.

Subscriptions to the amount of £101 17s. had been received since the last meeting.

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SCHEMES SECTION.

Miss I. Macdonald, Chairman of the Social Schemes Committee, had no report to make as the Reception which was arranged by Miss Bright and Miss Latham was not to take place until the 27th inst. Between sixty and seventy acceptances had been received.

REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman, reported that:—

Since the last meeting of the Council she had been most fortunate in obtaining very valuable gifts to the History of Nursing Section.

1. Fenton's "Incidents of Camp Life in the Crimea."

2. "History of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 1885."—These books she was able to buy owing to the generosity of Miss Cochrane and Miss Black, and she had made up the deficit.

3. "Eastern Hospitals by an English Nurse, 1856," in Vol. II, by Fanny Taylor, who afterwards became Mother Taylor.—Given by Miss Bushby.

4. "History of the War against Russia," by E. H. Nolan, Ph.D., LL.D., July 1857. Illustrated with beautiful prints.—Given by Miss H. Hawkins.

5. "The Christian Nurse and Her Mission in the Sick Room." From the French of Father Gautrelet, by J. M. Neale.—Given by Miss H. Hawkins.

6. "A Prayer." "The following prayer was found in the grave of our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 803, and sent from the Pope to the Emperor Charles as he was going into battle for Safety."—Given by Miss H. Hawkins.

7. "The New Asylum Nurse," by the Rev. Henry Hawkins, M.A.—Given by Miss H. Hawkins.

8. A Manuscript Letter of Dame Millicent Fawcett, which brings in Miss Nightingale's work.—Given to Miss Bushby by Mrs. Oliver Strachey for the British College of Nurses.

9. "Suggestions for Thought," Vols. I, II, III, by Miss Florence Nightingale.—Given to Miss Bushby by Mrs. Rosalind Nash for the British College of Nurses. These books, she was informed, were never given to the public, and only 25 copies were printed for private circulation.

This work was begun about 1852, and was partly printed in 1859; in the following year the whole three volumes were in type. It was never published by Miss Nightingale. In 1860, at the time when she put "Suggestions for Thought" into type, she was inclined to publish the work. She consulted some of her intimate friends on the point, and submitted the manuscript to two famous men—John Stuart Mill and Benjamin Jowett. Mr. Mill was for the books to be published and Mr. Jowett against.

The addition of these three volumes to the History of Nursing Library is a most valuable asset.

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