

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Fiftieth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, December 20th, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE STATE REGISTER A BARNETT HEIRLOOM.

1. The following letter was received from Mr. John Whieldon.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—I think it is due to you, your Council and Members, to inform you that I have retained for myself the Register of Nurses which was presented to Sir Richard Barnett at the Banquet in recognition of his services, and it is my intention to leave it as an heirloom to my grandson, John Alex. Whieldon Alster, only aged nine at present, but old enough for a great bond of affection to have been established between him and my dear cousin.

With kind regards,
Yours very truly,
J. BARNETT WHIELDON.

The Council desired that Mr. Whieldon be thanked for his letter and informed that they were much gratified that the inscribed copy of the Register of Nurses presented to the late Sir Richard Barnett was to be held in perpetuity by a member of his family.

2. Applications for financial help were received and recommendations agreed.

3. Letters of thanks for grants received.

4. Letter from Miss Emily Dinnie, who has given several valuable books to the College Library, making a most generous suggestion in event of her demise that the College should have an option on her well selected and cared for books (not otherwise donated).

The Council directed that its sincere thanks be sent to Miss Dinnie for her generous proposal, which they most gratefully accepted.

5. Letter from Miss M. M. P. Siggers, with which she forwarded as a gift the framed photograph of the group of delegates to the Conference of the National Council of Women at Portsmouth.

The gift was received with pleasure, to be acknowledged with thanks.

6. Letter from Miss Taylor, Matron, St. John's Hospital, Newfoundland, with gift of Labradorite stones set as cuff-links.

The Council much appreciated the gift.

A LEAGUE OF SISTER TUTORS.

7. Letter to President from Miss H. G. Ballard—*re* the organisation of the status and work of Sister Tutors. The President had suggested to Miss Ballard the advisability of forming a League of Sister Tutors, which in time might be affiliated to the National Council of Nurses, and through which questions of status and duties might be discussed.

The President invited Miss Ballard to present her views on the subject.

An interesting discussion took place and ultimately it was agreed that Miss D. K. Graham and Miss Ballard should discuss the matter with their colleagues preparatory to forming a League of Sister Tutors.

DISCOURTESY IN RECEIVING ROOMS.

8. The President reported a letter received from Lady Hermione Blackwood *re* complaints from friends of unsympathetic treatment by nurses to patients in the receiving wards of various hospitals.

To quote: "I wonder if you know what could be done about the bad reception in some hospitals accident cases get in the receiving room? A friend of mine complains bitterly of the treatment she got when taken into one of them. She said she was left for hours half dressed and her boots on and when she asked for a pillow the nurse said, 'This old girl wants a pillow.' The teeth of another arrival were being hawked round by the nurse with laughter.

I hear from my sister in Scotland to-day that the daughter and son-in-law of one of her neighbours met with a very severe taxi accident in London. They were taken to a hospital where the wife says she was left unattended on a stretcher for a considerable time, and then someone came along and rolled her off the stretcher on to a marble slab because the stretcher was wanted for someone else, then a doctor or a nurse came along to her and said, 'Oh! there's nothing wrong with you, you must just shake yourself.' As a matter of fact she had a broken collar-bone and shoulder and rib, while her husband's leg was broken in two places. History does not relate how he was treated. One hears too often stories of the careless reception patients get in these big hospitals. I have asked my sister to implore her neighbour to write to the Committee about it, as it would be doing a good turn to poorer people who can't complain. I wish the question could be ventilated in the *B.J.N.* and in the daily Press."

The Council were of opinion that the right course was for patients who did not receive courtesy and prompt and skilled attention in the receiving room to notify the Committee of the institution so as to enable them to investigate and reform bad conditions. This the majority of Committees were prepared to do.

The Council realised that good manners and kindness upon the part of nurses and medical officers in the receiving room should be insisted upon if a hospital was to be held in high repute.

FLOWERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

9. Letter from Miss E. M. Foulkes Pritchard from Rondebosch, S. Africa, sending a box of chinchinchee, "the only one of South Africa's beautiful flowers that will travel so far. I continue to like my life here. Every day is full of interest and there is plenty of new work waiting to be done. . . . Xmas will be upon you when you receive this. Here summer is settling in with occasional showers to cool matters. I cannot sufficiently appreciate this feeling of 'wellness.' I am never tired here and so am able to fully enjoy all my various activities. All good wishes for New Year."

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

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 £95 1s. had been received since the last meeting.

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