

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Sixty-seventh Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, June 18th, 1932, at 2.15 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present:—Miss E. Brodie, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss N. Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss G. Le Geyt, Fellows; 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.

The President, in reporting regrets for absence from Miss Margaret Brey and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-Presidents, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., and Miss A. M. Bright, expressed satisfaction that Miss Brey continued to improve in health, and felt sure that everyone present would realise how she longed to be with them; that Miss K. A. Smith, had, with this exception, attended every Meeting during her three years' term of office, and Miss Bright keenly regretted to be absent from her last Meeting of the Council.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

In a letter from Mrs. Hartree, Hon. Secretary, Cambridge and District Branch, National Council of Women of Great Britain, *re* the following Supplementary Resolution, in an extended form, expressing the hope that the British College of Nurses, would support the new wording, drawn up by Mrs. Keynes, after consultation with the College of Nursing:—

"The N.C.W. urges Local Authorities to frame schemes of training for Nurses in the various Hospitals and Institutions under their control, so as to give all probationers the opportunity of obtaining a complete training by a two-year course in a Hospital Training School following two years in a special and approved institution such as a Poor Law Institution (not recognised as a complete Training School), a Fever Hospital, Children's Hospital, etc., thus making training continuous for recognition by the General Nursing Council for admission to the General Part of the Register."

The President pointed out that the British College of Nurses, though affiliated to the National Council of Women, had not been consulted by it in considering nursing education, as apparently other professional organisations had been, and that not having heard the arguments in favour of the Resolution before it was submitted for support, it would be wiser that further consideration should be given to the question which expressed an opinion on the entire reorganisation of nursing education and practice.

After discussion it was agreed to inform Mrs. Hartree that the Council were unable to support the Resolution without further professional consideration.

It was pointed out that so many lay persons were now urging schemes of nurse training, many of whom were not qualified by experience to form expert opinions, that it would appear the duty of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to take the initiative in any educational reforms which would prove of ultimate value to Registered Nurses and the public.

It was then unanimously agreed that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales be urged to convene a Conference to consider the "prescribed training," as provided in the Statutory Rules of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, for persons as a condition of admission to the Register.

3. A letter from the Town Clerk, Guildhall, Hull—"The Health Committee of the Corporation have given consideration to the question of appointing a Female Attendant at the Mortuary, and whilst they cannot see their way to make an appointment at the present time, they have decided to consider the matter further when the erection

of a New Mortuary and Coroner's Court is contemplated." It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Town Clerk, Guildhall, Hull, expressing appreciation of the decision of his Committee.

4. A letter from Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., consenting to stand for election as a representative of the Affiliated Societies of the National Council of Women.

5. A letter of thanks from Miss M. King, M.B.C.N., for sympathetic message from President and Council, and for offer from a Fellow to pay this year's Annual Subscription for her.

6. A letter from Miss Annie T. Smyth, M.B.C.N., enclosing cheque for £17 10s., being half the amount of the Midwifery Grant given to her by the College, and refunded by the authorities of York Road General Lying-in-Hospital, in view of the fact that owing to ill-health inseparable from the handling of disinfectants, she was obliged to discontinue her Midwifery Training, and offering to pay back the rest of the Grant in monthly instalments.

The Council unanimously agreed that Miss Smyth should not be required to refund the remaining half of the Grant.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Cable received from Barbados General Hospital confirming Miss D. Warren's appointment as Pay Wards Sister.

2. A letter from Miss D. Warren, conveying her thanks and appreciation to the Council for recommending her for the post of Pay Wards Sister at Barbados.

3. A letter to the President from Miss Ellen A. Jones, sending Gifts to the Royal Mementoes Section of the College, stating their history. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Miss Ellen A. Jones for these unique Gifts.

4. A letter from Miss Nellie Dunkley, M.B.C.N., consenting to act as the College representative at the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women to be held in October at Norwich.

5. Since the last Meeting of the Council, notice has been received of the deaths of Miss Eva Esther Bell, F.B.C.N., on April 23rd. She was previously Matron of the Church Street Nursing Home, Bath. And of Miss Winifred Parker, F.B.C.N., Matron, County Mental Hospital, Antrim, Northern Ireland.

6. Letters of application for Grants were referred to the Education Committee.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

The applications for membership were approved and the candidates elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement, £69 19s. 9d. had been received in Annual Subscriptions since the last meeting.

HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss Bushby, Chairman of the Section, reported:

"Since the last Meeting of the Council, we have been most fortunate in obtaining many valuable additions to the History Section, but, so far, they have not been paid for.

1. "Introductory. Notes on Lying-In Institutions." First Edition, bound in cloth, 1871. Written in Florence Nightingale's own handwriting on the title page. "To my ever dearest guardian and friend, Mrs. Bracebridge, without whom no good part of my life would have been possible, this little book is offered by her ever grateful and devoted follower, Florence Nightingale, London, Oct. 10th, '71." This book is on the table.

2. A Brief Letter from Miss Florence Nightingale to Lady Wood, dated "Balaclava, June 28, '56." This, so far, is the only letter we have, written from the Crimea by Miss Nightingale. This is on the table for your inspection.

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