

On Saturday, December 19th, at the conclusion of the Council business, the celebration of Registration Day was held, when the text chosen for the ceremony was "Let us now praise Famous Women."

The Programme included:—

(1) A short Address delivered by the President who, referring to the text of the ceremony, said many famous people had in the past forty years taken part in the elevation of Nursing, and alluded to all those who had signed the Great Petition to the Privy Council in support of the first Royal Charter for Nurses, for the Royal British Nurses' Association, in 1892, founded to obtain State Registration of Nurses.

(2) Dedication to Miss Florence Nightingale, inscribed by the author of "A Woman's Example and a Nation's Work." A Tribute to Florence Nightingale in April, 1864—read by Miss A. M. Bushby, F.B.C.N.

(3) Valedictory Address given by Miss Mollett on the death of Miss Isla Stewart, the first President of the Matrons' Council.

During the year, the Council has kept a vigilant watch on the attempts to reintroduce into the House of Commons Mr. Fenner Brockway's undesirable measure, the Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill.

Mr. Brockway's Wages and Hours Bill for Nurses has now been taken in hand by another Labour Member, and although it has not at present any chance of promotion, it has been, we believe, referred for consideration to the Committee of Medical Members of the House.

The Council during the year has taken steps to awaken the interest of Local Authorities on the necessity of employing Female Attendants in Public Mortuaries, to handle and attend the bodies of dead women brought into these Mortuaries.

Wide publicity has been given to this important reform through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and a large correspondence has taken place with the Local Authorities throughout the country.

A Resolution submitted to them has been carefully considered by many of the Borough Councils, with the result that while many expressed sympathy with this movement, a considerable number decided not to take action at present. Several, however, have stated their intention to take action to effect this very necessary reform.

On August 10th the British College of Nurses was honoured by a visit from Her Majesty Queen Sophie, Queen Dowager of Greece. The Queen was received by the President, and the Councillors, in their Robes, and accepted a bouquet of pink roses and carnations.

The Councillors and ex-Councillors had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty, together with several Fellows and Members. Her recent death has aroused the deep sorrow of many English nurses who had nursed for her in Greece.

A large number of Distinguished Visitors, including eminent nurses from many parts of the world, have visited the College.

During the year the Council has received and accepted on behalf of the College many valuable gifts too num-

erous to mention, which have been recorded from time to time in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Notable amongst them are two Bookplates presented by Miss G. Le Geyt for the Lending Library and the Isla Stewart Section, designed by Miss Elspeth Henderson; the design of the latter Bookplate is, by kind permission of the President and Members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, a reproduction of the design of the Isla Stewart Memorial Plaque, by Mr. Allan Wyon.

A perfect statuette in Blanc de Chine of Kuan-Yin, the Chinese Madonna or Goddess of Mercy, presented by Miss D. K. Graham.

The serious illness of Miss Margaret Breay, the first Vice-President, caused the deepest anxiety among Fellows and Members of the College, and it is with sincere thankfulness that we are able to report a marked improvement in her health.

This is a very condensed abstract of the Council's Annual Report.

(Signed) ETHEL G. FENWICK,
President.

39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

It was proposed by Miss Jessie Holmes, seconded by Miss Beatrice Treasure, and carried, that the Report be received.

Miss Allbutt expressed satisfaction of the good work done in giving Legal Protection to Fellows and Members. Miss Macdonald thought the Council was to be congratulated on the immense amount of work it had achieved, which the comprehensive Report showed.

Miss Cochrane thought that every nurse, whatever the position they occupied, should seek the necessary information and take an intelligent interest in their legal position in reference to their professional work.

That the Report be adopted was proposed by Miss Allbutt, seconded by Miss Solomon, and carried unanimously.

Financial Report.

Dr. Fenwick, presenting the Audited Accounts for the past year, explained them, called special attention to the diminished dividends and the subscriptions from Australia and New Zealand, owing to the serious financial condition, not only of this country, but of the whole world, during the past year, and moved the Resolution

"That the Audited Accounts to June 30th be received and adopted, and a printed copy entered on the Minutes of this meeting."

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

The President regretted that this year they would lose the valuable services of Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C., Fellow, who had also served as Chairman of the Social Schemes Committee, and Miss A. M. Bright, who had been a most generous contributor to all the activities of the College, and proposed that a very hearty vote of thanks be sent to them for their services during their three years' term of office. This was carried unanimously.

Introduction of Newly Elected Members of the Council.

The President welcomed and presented the newly-elected Councillors, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., and Miss A. M. Bushby with bouquets of red and pink roses,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)