

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The seventy-first Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, November 19th, 1932.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present:—Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-President, Miss E. Brodie, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss N. Farrant, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss Isabel Macdonald, Fellows, and Miss E. J. Haswell, Member.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss M. Breay, Vice-President, and Miss H. G. Ballard.

### BUSINESS ARISING.

The following letters of thanks for sympathy conveyed from the Council of the British College of Nurses on the death of Miss Dorothy Annie Snell from (a) Sister Pastorelli: Scuola Convitto "Regina Elena,"

Roma, Policlinico.

4th November, 1932.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

In the name of Sister Antonaglia the Sisters the Staff-Nurses and all probationers, I thank you for your sympathy on the occasion of the death of our dear Matron.

It has been a great loss.

She has taught us to be Nurses, she has fought for our cause in Italy—we owe all to her. I have handed your letter to Mrs. Whitehead. She bought the wreath and Madame Maraini deposited it on the grave. She who was for our beloved Matron the greatest friend, and she, who worked so much with her for our School.

I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) VIRGINIE PASTORELLI.

and (b) from Mrs. Whitehead, sister of Miss Dorothy Snell.

The Council approved of the President's action in offering to donate Miss Snell's College Diploma and Badge (which in accordance with the Rules is now the property of the College) to the Scuola Convitto "Regina Elena" Policlinico, Rome, in her memory.

Letter from Miss M. S. Riddell, R.R.C., Registrar-General Nursing Council, acknowledging letter of 2nd inst., received from the Council of the British College of Nurses and stating that it shall be placed before the next Meeting of the General Nursing Council.

Letter from Mr. A. F. Gibbs, Banqueting Manager, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, that he has pleasure in confirming the definite reservation of the Ballroom for the Annual Dinner to be held on May 4th, 1933.

Letter from Miss E. Simpson, Secretary, Midwives Institute, stating "if it is at all possible to compile a schedule of particulars concerning the fees for Midwifery training in the 'approved' Schools, I will do so and let you have a copy."

Summary of replies from Fellows and Members of the College who have been awarded Midwifery Grants, showing total cost of expenses incurred in various hospitals when taking the Midwifery Course of Training and C.M.B. Examination.

Letter from R. H. P. Orde, Esq., Hon. Secretary, the British Hospitals Association, sending two tickets of admission to the Meeting on Friday, November 18th, at the discussion on *The Lancet* Commission on Nursing.

The President reported that she, Miss Bushby and Miss Cochrane attended the Meeting of *The Lancet* Commission on Friday, November 18th, and speaking at some length, outlined the gist of the speeches, and pointed out that if the Nursing Profession is to maintain the privilege of self-government provided through the General Nursing Council,

the suggestion of *The Lancet* Commission to divide the Preliminary State Examination into two parts must be opposed, as it could only lead to disintegration. Miss Cochrane, on being invited to give her opinion on the Meeting, stated that the only speech in opposition to the proposals of *The Lancet* Commission delivered by Miss Steele Innes, Lady Supt., General Infirmary, Leeds, was kept rigidly to the five minutes time while the other speakers were allowed to exceed the time limit. She considered the speeches in favour of *The Lancet* Commission's proposals were of a destructive and not of a constructive nature in so far as nursing education was concerned, and that the recommendations if carried into effect would depreciate the office of Matron and Sister Tutor. At the conclusion of the Meeting there had been no summing up and no action taken.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### THE ONE PORTAL TO THE REGISTER.

(a) A large number of letters were received and considered from Candidates nominated for Election to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to whom enquiries had been addressed, as to their policy in the One Portal Examination to the Register, and as all replies were of a satisfactory nature it was agreed to vote in their support.

(b) Two letters inviting legal advice, to which replies had been sent.

(c) Letter from a member stating she has had difficulty in connection with the Superannuation Scheme. "The Local Government and other Officers Superannuation Act, into which I paid up to December 31st, 1931. Taking the Health Visitors' Course from January to June, 1932, and then not obtaining a post until October 31st, causes a ten months' break in service against the six months allowed by the Act. I have been told that I shall have to withdraw the nearly eight years' payment which is to my credit, which of course I have no desire to do. I thought that the point would be worth discussion by the College, for although I myself will not benefit, I think that there should be a clause inserted into the Act allowing for courses of study being counted as continuous service. In my case I was still working for the Public Health Dept., Birmingham, but as an independent student not appointed."

After a short discussion Miss Le Geyt consented to submit to the next Meeting of the Council a short précis on the subject after collaborating with Miss Farrant.

Letter from Miss Gladys E. Stephenson, asking if she may have a duplicate of her Diploma which she lost when the floods partly destroyed the Hospital at Hankow last year in September. She informed the office of the loss at the time.

It was agreed that a duplicate diploma be supplied to Miss Stephenson.

Letters from (a) Mrs. Keynes, Chairman, Committee of Management, Papworth Village Settlement, in reply to letter from the Council of appreciation of the Administration Class visit to Papworth. "I am very glad indeed and I am sure my Committee will share my satisfaction to know that the Class on Administration of the British College of Nurses felt that they derived benefit from their visit to Papworth Village Settlement. Kindly express to your Council our appreciation of their message." And (b) from the Matron, Miss K. L. Borne, of thanks for letter of appreciation from the Council.

Letter from Miss L. Clark of thanks for Housekeeping Grant of £10.

Letter from Miss Keys-Wells sending donation to History Section of £1 from herself, and 13s. 6d. from members of the College on the Croydon Hospital staff.

The Secretary was instructed to convey a special vote of thanks for these generous donations.

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