

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Sixty-second meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, January 23rd, at 2.15 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and all the Members of the Council—with the exception of Miss D. K. Graham, who was ill—were present.

Before taking the business on the Agenda the President reported the deaths of two Fellows, Mrs. Anna Margareta Frith, who had in the past given support to movements for the uplift of the profession of Nursing, and of Miss Edith Eliza Please, a lifelong worker as a member of the R.B.N.A. for State Registration of Nurses and other professional movements.

It was agreed to send expressions of regret to members of their families.

The death of Miss Fanny Villiers, sister of Miss S. A. Villiers, took place on the 12th inst. The Council desired an expression of regret to be conveyed to Miss Villiers.

### BUSINESS ARISING.

1. A letter of appreciation was received from the Treasurer, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, for the Resolution expressing the thanks of the Council for his work on behalf of the College.

2. A letter of thanks from Miss Darbyshire for congratulations sent from the Council on her election as a Director of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

### The Need of Female Attendants in Public Mortuaries.

Letter from the Town Clerk, Guildford, containing the welcome information "that the Council have appointed a female attendant to deal with the dead bodies of women at the Public Mortuary. The attendant is to be paid a fee of 5s. per body, all washing and cleaning materials to be supplied by the Corporation, subject in the case of a body requiring further assistance in order to be dealt with to an additional fee of 5s. being paid."

Letter from the Town Clerk, Woolwich, stating that the Council decided not to take any action on the appointment of Female Attendants. The President had requested the Secretary to make a complete tabulated list of all replies received from Public Authorities to the recommendation that they should appoint Female Attendants in Public Mortuaries to the charge and care for the dead bodies of women. When such schedule had been compiled further steps should be taken to make public the deplorable arrangements in this connection, which could not be justified in any civilised country.

### Special Committee of Inquiry into the Out-Patient Question by the King's Hospital Fund.

In reply to a letter to Lord Luke drawing attention to the omission of a Registered Nurse conversant with the nursing in the Out Patient Department on the Special Committee of Inquiry into the Out Patient question of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, appointed by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales—a reply had been received from the Secretary stating that the letter sent from the Council "shall be laid before the Management Committee at their next meeting."

### Coaching Classes for the G.N.C. Examinations.

Information on the Coaching Classes organised by the College was received—and recommendations for extending the Classes adopted.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter from Miss E. C. Davis reporting her good fortune in being elected to the tenancy of a furnished cottage at Rickmansworth given by the Territorial Army Nursing Service Benevolent Fund. The paragraph

notifying the cottage was available for a retired Territorial Nurse appeared in the B.J.N. in July.

2. Letter from Miss M. C. Mason reporting that she had passed the Health Visitors Examination for which she had a grant of £25.

The Council desired that congratulations be sent to Miss Davis and Miss Mason.

3. Letter from Miss Dorothy Snell, Rome, reporting condition of Miss Macvitie, who resides in a convent. A grant had been sent for additional comforts.

4. Letter of thanks for grant from Miss Sallie Round, India.

5. Several letters from Fellows and Members explaining financial depreciation of income and requiring time for payment of subscriptions. The Council considered these appeals sympathetically.

6. Letters of appreciation and thanks for Diplomas.

7. Many letters from all parts of the world expressing great pleasure at receiving the letter of greeting and Royal Christmas cards at Christmas from the President, Council and Secretary,

Miss Sophie Munro, Italy, writes: "It was a pleasant surprise to receive to-day the beautiful card, and very kind Christmas and New Year good wishes of the President and Councillors of the B.C.N. It is, I think, a most kindly act to send out remembrances to us poor exiles! Please give my thanks for all kind wishes and lovely card of 'Father Thames' (The King's Card) to President and Councillors."

Miss E. F. Hawkins writes from Western Ontario:—"I wish to thank the President and Council of the College for the pretty Christmas card and cheerful letter which came to me from across the ocean. It made me feel like a member of a large family who was absent but not forgotten by those at home."

Miss Mary Watson writes from Australia:—"Thank you much for the kind personal letter from the British College of Nurses and the beautiful etching of Buckingham Palace you enclosed with Christmas greetings. Such a remembrance touched me deeply, and I can assure you it has cheered one and all much to know that we are thus thought of by the nurses in the Motherland."

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is eagerly awaited and read, to judge from letters received.

7. Letter of thanks from Mrs. Dell, who won the dressing jacket given by Miss Ballard, for the History of Nursing Section.

### Donation to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

8. Letter from Miss Breay, forwarding a copy of the Resolution from the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain inviting a subscription of from £1 to £5 in support of the work of the National Council. It was explained that the whole of the *per capita* fees of from £400 to £500 per annum was merely passed through the National Council account in forwarding it to the International Council at Geneva. The President said the Finance Committee of the National Council would meet at an early date and consider how all the work accomplished by the National Council was to be supported.

The Council agreed to requisition for £5 in support of the Resolution.

9. Letter from Miss E. Fenton reporting that she began her Housekeeping Course, for which she was given a grant of £10, at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, on December 13th.

10. Letter from Miss K. V. Mahon, asking to be permitted to retain books on loan until May, when she is to sit for the Health Visitors' Examination. This request was granted.

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