

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Sixty-fourth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, March 19th, at 2.15 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and all members of Council were present, with the exception of Miss E. Haswell, who sent a letter of regret at inability to attend. Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING.

The reply to the letter from the Council 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, appointed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales—Mr. H. R. Maynard, Secretary, King Edward's Hospital Fund for London stated that the Management Committee "cannot see their way to recommend that the question be reopened."

Discussion took place on the persistent omission by public bodies of Nursing representation on Committees dealing with questions of health administration and organisation. The Council was of opinion that Nursing having been advanced to a Profession by Act of Parliament since 1919, its legal status should be recognised and its expert knowledge be made available for the community in matters of Public Health.

It was agreed to place this point of view before King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

Letter with scale of reductions from the Clerk to the London County Council, *re* temporary reductions of salaries and wages concerning the Council's Nursing Staffs (other than Mental Hospitals).

In reply to Miss Isabel Macdonald's kind offer to deliver a Lecture on "The Four Temperaments," it was agreed that the Lecture should be held at the College on April 19th, at 5.30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Necessity for Female Attendants in Public Mortuaries. From Town Clerk, New Cross, S.E.14. "The procedure in this Borough very closely approximated to the suggestion contained in your letter, the Committee determined to take no action in the matter."

H.M. Coroner, Wigan. "I understand that the Council of the County Borough of Wigan employs a Female Attendant at the Mortuary."

Town Clerk, Leeds. "Female Attendants employed in all our Public Mortuaries."

Mayor of Wandsworth. "I understand the appropriate Committee of the Council have made arrangements for the employment of Female Assistants at the Public Mortuaries as occasion arises."

Town Clerk, Bath. "The question of the appointment of Female Attendants in the Mortuary of this City will be considered by the Watch Committee at their next Meeting."

Town Clerk, Chester. "The Watch Committee of this City gave instructions for enquiries to be made with regard to the laying out of bodies in mortuaries, with the result that a Memorandum, copy of which is sent herewith, was laid before them at their meeting . . . and after fully considering the same the Committee passed a resolution that no further action be taken in the matter." (This Memorandum is exceedingly interesting and will be published in due course.)

Mr. J. Kenyon Parker, H.M. Coroner, City of Sheffield, kindly sent copy of our Resolution to the Town Clerk—which was brought before the Watch Committee, which decided "to take no action in the matter." Mr. Kenyon Parker writes: "As I pointed out to you before, the Public

Mortuary at my Court is a Public one belonging to and under the control of the City Council and not of myself. I am afraid that such Council, having regard to the state of trade in Sheffield and the National appeal for economy, is not likely to consider this question an urgent one. Although I sympathise with the views of your College in this matter, I am bound to say that in an experience of about 30 years and in many thousands of deaths removed to such Mortuary for inquest purposes no instance of objection to the present system has ever come to my knowledge."

Letters from the authorities of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Greenwich, Bournemouth, Brighton, Aldershot, and Birmingham have taken no action to effect reform. The Town Clerk, Birmingham, writes: "The Watch Committee . . . having considered the matter carefully they arrived at the conclusion that no useful purpose would be served by the appointment of female attendants at public mortuaries." The President hoped that when the replies from Public Authorities had been tabulated and circulated to societies of responsible women, and others, that the sad lack of sensibility, not to say decency, upon the part of many of such bodies in many of our leading cities—and in the Metropolis—would receive the publicity and condemnation they deserved.

THE TRAINING OF MALE NURSES.

An interesting letter was received from Mr. F. A. Mace, who is studying for the purpose of obtaining the Diploma in Nursing, on the training of Male Nurses. His aim is to further the General Training of Male Mental Nurses, and from personal experience he is of opinion that only when the wards of Mental Hospitals are under the administration of doubly trained people, will the best be obtained both from the patients and the staff.

The majority of the Council sympathised with this view, but owing to present conditions realised the great practical difficulties to be overcome.—The President suggested that she and others should consult personally with Mr. Mace. This was agreed.

Letter from Miss M. E. Margerison, drawing attention to a Resolution in the Official Organ of the Woman Health Officers Association recommending six months' Hospital experience only to qualify for Health Visitors' Certificate. The Council were of opinion that a three years' hospital training in nursing—and registration—together with the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and a whole-time course of training in public health work should constitute the curriculum for the Health Visitors' Certificate.

Letter of thanks from Mr. James Kinlock for tribute to Dr. J. Parlane Kinlock in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

From the Hon. Secretary of the Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland for the account of its work published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and sending a copy of the beautiful Grenfell Calendar for this year from the sale of which a big sum has been available for the Endowment Fund of the Association.

From Miss E. M. Jaggin, to whose skilful nursing of the Prime Minister during his recent operation reference was made in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Many other letters received consideration.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

All the Applications received were approved and the candidates were elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement.

MISS GRAHAM'S REPORT.

Miss D. K. Graham made the following Report:—
On Tuesday, March 15th, the members of the Tutorial Group attended a Lecture upon "A Stimulus to Teaching"

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