

"The Story of Florence Nightingale," by W. J. W. Greenby.

MISS GRAHAM'S REPORT.

With the consent of the Council a meeting of the Tutorial Group will be held at the British College of Nurses at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 18th, when the Summer programme of the Group will be discussed.

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

The chief matter of importance in the Secretary's Statement referred to the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919 (Amendment Bill), which was brought into the House of Commons by Mr. J. Batey, J.P., M.P., on April 3rd, which Bill provides for a further term of grace for twelve months during which all existing nurses may register without examination. The following letter was sent from the British College of Nurses on April 10th to every Member of the House of Commons.

39, Portland Place, London, W.1.
April 10th, 1933.

"NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1919 (AMENDMENT BILL)."

SIR,—We earnestly plead with you to oppose the Second reading of the "Nurses' Registration Act, 1919 (Amendment Bill)" to be moved by Mr. J. Batey, in the House of Commons on Wednesday, April 12th. The object of this Bill, concerning which the promoters have not consulted the Registered Nurses, provides for the registration of existing nurses without examination.

The result of such ill-considered legislation would be most disastrous to the educational standards of the Nursing Profession now established under the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Your obedient Servant,

ETHEL G. FENWICK (Registered Nurse),
President, British College of Nurses.

In response to this letter a large number of replies had been received from Members of Parliament expressing sympathy with the Protest of the College, and promising actual opposition to the Bill, amongst them the Member for Marylebone, Captain Cunningham-Reid, who had promised to do all in his power to oppose the Bill and thus protect the standards of Registered Nurses. The President reported the proceedings at a Meeting summoned by Mr. Batey on April 5th, when he refused to read his Bill when asked to do so by herself and others present. Apparently the Meeting had been summoned to urge Nurses to join the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers Union, associated with the Trades Union Congress. Mr. George Gibson, general secretary, took an active part in the somewhat disorderly proceedings, by which, however, neither the President nor Miss Isabel Macdonald were silenced.

The President expressed the opinion that there was no reason why such Nurses who wished to join a Trades Union should not do so, but the bait for such organisation must not be the destruction of the educational standards attained during the past ten years by efficiently trained Nurses tested by Statutory Examination, by the admission of persons to the Register whose training, if any, had not been tested by examination. The State Examination was open to those Nurses whose training fitted them for the safe and efficient care of the sick.

It was the duty of the General Nursing Council to stand firmly for organised training and examination of nurses admitted to the Register. The Ministry of Health also owed a duty to the Nursing Profession and the public in these matters.

The ultimate power, however, rested in the conscientious convictions of the Registered Nurses themselves, who must individually communicate with the Member of

Parliament for the constituency in which she had a vote and petition for the protection of her educational standards and legal status.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Very beautiful tea cloth embroidered with acorns—Miss A. M. Bright.

Cake saw, for Registration cake—Miss J. S. Crombie.

Flowers—Miss G. R. Hale.

Two boxes of flowers—Miss A. Macwilliam.

5s. for flowers—Miss I. Macdonald.

Flowers—Mrs. Summerhayes.

Flowers and 7s. 6d. for flowers—Mrs. M. O. Goad.

Book, "Shakespeare Tercentenary"—Miss Shekleton.

"Performance" and Photo from *Illustrated News* of "Homecoming of Nurse Cavell."

HISTORY SECTION.

One pound—Miss N. Farrant.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Saturday, May 20th, at 2.15 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

FIXTURES.

May 16th.—Meeting of Education Committee. 3.30 p.m.

May 18th.—Meeting of the Tutorial Group, British College of Nurses. Discussion: Tutorial Group's Summer Programme. 6 p.m.

May 20th.—Monthly Meeting of the Council. 2.15 p.m.

TWO OUTSTANDING EVENTS.

In the following pages all available space has been devoted to reporting the History Dinner of the British College of Nurses at which two outstanding events were emphasised.

THE ORATION.

Without doubt the fine delivery of the Oration on the Historic Royal Nurses by Miss Isabel Macdonald, placed her in the very first rank of speakers in the nursing profession. The intellectual standard of the imagery in which she presented the subject, the fluency of speech, in her clear and beautiful voice, which was audible throughout the Hall, merited the applause she received.

The Oration is to be published in pamphlet form, for professional benefit, and will no doubt be eagerly acquired.

THE NURSES' CHAMPION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Since the death of our revered champion in the House of Commons, the late Sir Richard Barnett, the Nurses' Registration Party, have had no accredited supporter in Parliament who thoroughly sympathised with their professional needs. On May 4th, Captain A. S. Cunningham-Reid, Member for St. Marylebone, attended the "History Dinner" at which he most eloquently and with great good feeling proposed the health of the Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in his speech he expressed his willingness to guard our interests in the House, which he had already done by persistently blocking the Batey Bill, calculated to degrade the Register of Nurses.

The championship of Captain Cunningham-Reid will, we feel sure, relieve the anxiety of Registered Nurses, who realise that "eternal vigilance" must be exercised if their professional status is to be maintained.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)