

logy Certificate, British College of Nurses Diploma, Certificate, Central Midwives Board, and Certified Teacher of Midwifery.

Special Work.—Hon Secretary, Tutorial group, B.C.N., Hon. Sec. League of Sister-Tutors. Delegate, National Council of Nurses. Vice-principal, School of Dietetics, and Examiner in Nursing, General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

TO CONSIDER A RISE OF SALARY OF £25 FOR THE SECRETARY ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT.

The Council agreed to recommend a rise of salary of £25 for the Secretary, Miss Alice S. Bryson, according to agreement.

The President spoke in warm terms of the services as Secretary to the College of Miss Stewart Bryson, during the past year. Nothing could exceed her devotion to duty, and her courtesy and kindness to visitors and fellow workers.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Miss Jessie Holmes.—“The Life of Queen Victoria 1819–1901,” by G. Barnett Smith. Bust of Dante, and Old Lace, from Italian Ducal House.

Miss Macwilliam.—Flowers.

Mr. Bryson Gerrard.—Painting of Council Room fireplace and mantelshelf.

Miss F. E. Mawtus.—2s. 6d. to College Funds.

Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C.—Concert tickets.

Mrs. Wates.—Flowers.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.—Books sent for Review.

HISTORY SECTION.

Miss H. G. Ballard.—£1.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Saturday, June 17th, at 2.15 p.m.

FIXTURES.

June 17th.—Monthly Meeting of the Council, 2.15 p.m.

June 28th.—Tutorial Group. Visit to United Dairies Factory at Vauxhall. 2.30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS.

COUNSEL'S OPINION TO BE TAKEN.

Under Other Business a discussion took place on the proposal to split the Preliminary Examination conducted by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Those present were unanimously opposed to outside interference with the statutory authority of the General Nursing Council in Educational matters, as provided by Act of Parliament, and decided to take Counsel's opinion on certain details under discussion.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

JULY.

July 27th.—Annual Meeting of Fellows and Members, Lecture Hall, British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, W.1. 3 p.m.

AGENDA.

1. Prayers.
2. Minutes.
3. To receive the Annual Report.
4. To receive Financial Report from the Treasurer.
5. Appointment of Auditors.

After the Meeting there will be a Reception by the Council and Tea from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. at which all Fellows and Members will be heartily welcome.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

“A DOMINATING SOCIAL TASK.”

The Prince of Wales, speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Municipal Corporations at the Guildhall, made a stirring appeal for a great national effort for the eradication of slums and the rehousing of slum dwellers, an appeal with which the nursing profession, keenly alive to the fundamental malign influence of the slums on the health, morals and happiness of those forced to live in them, and more especially on the children, must be in deep sympathy.

His Royal Highness said, in part, the magnificent national housing effort since the War ended, by which nearly 2,000,000 new houses have been built, providing accommodation for one-fifth of the population of England and Wales, is apt to obscure the small contribution that has been made towards the clearance of the slums and rehousing of slum dwellers. In fact, that contribution has been pitifully small.

To get down to bedrock and clear up the situation, the Government, with the help of the good will of the local authorities, have embarked upon a five-year campaign to rid the country of slums, and the local authorities have been asked to submit programmes and plans for the purpose by September next. There are houses that, because of economic and social reasons, have depreciated in value and yet could be saved by reconditioning. But there are a great mass of slum dwellings in this country that are relics of a by-gone idea of what was tolerable for workmen. That type of house must be demolished. I personally inspected many such places and I have been appalled that such conditions can exist in a civilised country such as ours.

In conclusion I would like to say that this nation cannot afford, first from an economic point of view, the perpetuation of the slums. No one can calculate what their cost really is. It is an incalculable factor which adds to the expenditure on social and health services. Slums are radiating centres of disease, ill-health, and discontent. How much loss of working time and sickness is due to slums! What extra burden is placed on the shoulders of approved societies, what extra burden on local authorities in the provision of hospital services! All statistics show the prevalence of maternal and infant mortality and epidemic diseases.

What is the sense of treating the slum dweller, and especially the slum children, for disease, and when they are recovered sending them back to the very centres where disease is rife?

Nor can the nation afford the moral and mental degradation which slum conditions create in those who inhabit them. The psychological harm, also, is at least comparable with the physical evil.

Let public opinion awaken. Great tasks require great energy, vision, and determination. Let us put forward a great national effort, irrespective of Party or of politics. Every generation has a dominating social task, and so let our age, our generation, be remembered as the one in which we swept away this blot that disgraces our national life. This is an age of planning and building. Let us build a new Britain and provide houses worthy of the dignity and greatness of our race.

POST-MORTEM SCANDALS.

Speaking at the Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, Dr. Edward F. Hoare, Coroner for the Lewes district of East Sussex, in a paper on *post-mortem* examinations, protested against the primitive accommodation for such examinations in many country districts. It was a scandal, especially in these days of motoring deaths in remote places, that the police should have to go hawking around to find someone who would give shelter to bodies.

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