

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The eighty-first Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, October 21st, 1933.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss Margaret Breay and Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-Presidents; Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C.; Miss J. C. Cowie, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, Fellows; and Miss E. J. Haswell, Member.

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

#### BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

1. *Re* Resolution on "Training of Nurses" proposed by Mrs. Keynes at the Annual Meeting and Congress on October 12th of the National Council of Women of Great Britain, held in Torquay.

The following letter from Miss Norah Green, Secretary, National Council of Women, was reported:—

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
Murray House,  
Vandon Street, London, S.W.1.  
18th October, 1933.  
The Secretary,  
British College of Nurses,  
39, Portland Place, W.1.

Dear Madam,

The National Council of Women of Great Britain, at its Annual Meeting and Conference held in the Town Hall, Torquay, from 10th to 12th October, passed the following resolution which I was instructed to forward to you for your information:—

#### *Training of Nurses.*

"That this Council is of opinion that in order to increase the number of suitable candidates for the Nursing profession it should be made possible for pupils to take part of the preliminary examination before leaving a secondary school, thus stimulating their interest and relieving the pressure of the first year in hospital."

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) NORAH E. GREEN,  
General Secretary.

1 (b) The President reported that the following telegram was sent on October 12th to the Chairman, Representative Council Meeting, National Council of Women, Town Hall, Torquay, objecting to the Resolution to be proposed by Mrs. Keynes, from the President, British College of Nurses:

"Urgent and important.

*Telegram.*

Addressed to:—

The Chairman, Representative Council Meeting, National Council of Women, Town Hall, Torquay.

From: President, British College of Nurses, London.

"Regret inability to attend meeting and desire to enter earnest protest against the Resolution to be proposed by Mrs. Keynes, on 'Training of Nurses.' Thousands of nurses disapprove and those of us who are affiliated to the National Council of Women are of opinion that the Nurses' Organisations should have been consulted before this Resolution was placed on the Agenda. Please read this protest to the meeting.

(Signed) ETHEL G. FENWICK."

The following telegram in reply was sent from the Secretary, The National Council of Women of Great Britain: "Thanks for telegram, Council refused to hear opinions from absentees as being unconstitutional."

(2) The College delegate sending a report of the Conference, and stating that she attended the Representative Meeting of the Congress of the National Council of Women of Great Britain on October 12th, prepared to oppose the Resolution proposed by Mrs. Keynes, and was not allowed to speak.

The President pointed out that the British College of Nurses being affiliated to the National Council of Women, is a component part of that body, and that courtesy demanded that such affiliated professional organisations should have been consulted by lay members of the N.C.W., before attempting to supersede the statutory authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession.

The Council unanimously deplored the disastrous effect of such uninstructed interference in the educational curriculum of the Nursing Profession by the National Council of Women, who would not venture to take such action where medical or legal education were concerned.

It was unanimously agreed to send a considered protest to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Mme. M. de Bellegarde, President of the Committee of the Red Cross Rest Home for Nurses, Villa Belvedere, Fiesole, Italy, expressing interest and pleasure "to read in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of September, 1933, a short account of our new Red Cross Rest Home for Nurses at Villa Belvedere at Fiesole," and further stating "all Nurses belonging to the British College of Nurses will be welcome even if they do not belong to the British Red Cross, and I shall be glad if you will add to their request for admission a line of introduction."

The President reported that she had also received a charming photograph of Villa Belvedere, which would be reproduced in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Letter from Miss J. Ruddy, M.B.C.N., that Miss Bushby will be welcomed by members of the Women's Institute at Kingscote, East Grinstead, when she lectures on Florence Nightingale. It was agreed to recommend Miss Bushby to take, at her discretion, a few things of historic interest connected with Miss Florence Nightingale to illustrate her address.

A letter from a member notifying the satisfactory progress of her sister, who was admitted to the Bethlem Royal Hospital for treatment, through an introduction from the College. She writes:—"I am truly thankful to have her there, and always remember that it was the British College of Nurses who helped me in my trouble. I would not have been able to get her that vacancy, I am sure, without your help."

Letter from Miss B. Filley, M.B.C.N., sending 5s. towards the Florence Nightingale Scholarships Fund.

Letter to the President from Miss Fanny Burchell, F.B.C.N., Matron, Ru Rua Private Hospital, N. Adelaide, S. Australia, of thanks for hospitality while in London. "It was a privilege to meet you, and so pleasant to feel I know some of the people to whom I now belong. I am taking back to Australia very happy memories of my holiday in England, as well as much interest derived from the Conference on the Continent, while I look forward to attending the next one, when I hope we shall be able to be affiliated to the I.C.N."

Letters of thanks and appreciation of the Administration Class visit to Knole House from (a) Miss Sharpe and (b) Miss H. M. West, Matron, Southgate Isolation Hospital.

Letters of thanks for Educational Grants from (a) Miss A. W. Laxen, M.B.C.N., and (b) Miss G. M. Saddler, M.B.C.N., for Midwifery Grants of £35 each to enable them to take their Midwifery Training and C.M.B. Examination, (c) Miss L. A. Hallett, M.B.C.N., for Grant to enable her to attend Course of Lectures on Tropical Diseases at the Tropical Diseases Hospital, Endsleigh Gardens.

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