

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The seventy-fourth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, February 25th, 1933.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present:—Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-President, Miss E. Brodie, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss N. Farrant, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, Fellows; Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss E. J. Haswell, Members.

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

The President reported a letter of regret for absence from Miss Margaret Breay, who had removed from the Nursing Home to her flat at Brighton, and hoped to attend the Council at an early date.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

I. The following communication received from Sir Montagu Cox, Clerk of the London County Council, in reply to a letter sent from the Council of the British College of Nurses, objecting to employment of unregistered Nurses as Sisters, was read:—

London County Council,
The County Hall,
Westminster Bridge, S.E.1.
2nd February, 1933.

MADAM,

With reference to your letter of the 3rd ultimo, I am directed to state that the observations of the Council of the British College of Nurses on the decisions of the Council regarding (i) the extension from three to four years of the period of training in general nursing for probationer nurses at hospitals under the management of the Central Public Health Committee, and (ii) the qualifications of departmental sisters (massage, X-ray and electrical departments) have been carefully considered. In reply to the various points raised in your letter regarding the first matter, I am directed to state as follows:—

(a) Under the new scheme of training the large majority of the probationer nurses will sit for the examination of the General Nursing Council probably during the early portion of their fourth year of training. The actual time will obviously depend both upon the date on which they joined the service and the date of the General Nursing Council's examinations, but all probationer nurses undergoing general nursing training will complete the four-years' course irrespective of the date on which they take the examination of the General Nursing Council.

(b) No special branches of training will be covered during the extended year of training.

(c) Probationer nurses now undergoing training will continue their training under the terms of the scheme at present in operation, *i.e.*, for a three-years' course. It is proposed, however, to recommend the Council to allow probationer nurses recruited before 1st April, 1933, the opportunity of taking, if they so desire, a four-years' instead of a three-years' course of training.

With regard to the question of the qualifications of departmental sisters (massage, X-ray and electrical departments) I am to state that after careful review the Sub-Committee concerned are not prepared to advise the reversal of the decision of the Council in the matter.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) MONTAGU H. COX,
Clerk of the Council.

The Secretary,
The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, W.1.

After discussion it was agreed that a further communication be sent to the Chairman of the London County Council concerning the Council's serious objection to the employment of unregistered Nurses as Sisters.

Letter from Miss Helen Tainsh, Secretary, Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship and Glasgow Women Citizens Association, in reply to communication from the Council

expressing regret that in the Annual Report of that Society for 1931-1932 it was reported that a complaint to the N.U.S.E.C. *re* the absence of Women Attendants in Public Mortuaries to attend the bodies of women was received from the College of Nursing instead of from the British College of Nurses, and stating that they will "take steps to have this corrected in the Annual Report given at the Annual Meeting in March 1933."

Letter of thanks from Miss M. G. Allbutt for congratulations sent from the Council on her election as a Director of the National Council of Nurses.

RE HISTORY DINNER.

Letters accepting invitations to speak at the "History Dinner" on Royal Foundations from:—

(a) Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E., M.A., F.R.C.S.: "I will gladly dine at your Annual Dinner on May 4th at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, and add my mite to the talk after Dinner."

(b) Dr. Porter Phillips, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician Superintendent, Bethlem Royal Hospital, Beckenham, Kent: "It will give me great pleasure to accept your invitation and I will do my best to speak 'quite briefly' on the foundation of Bethlem Royal Hospital."

(c) Dr. Frederick Parsons, D.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.: "I shall feel it a great honour to be a guest at your Dinner and will gladly say a few words about old S. Thomas's."

RE REPRESENTATION OF ROYAL NURSES AT HISTORY DINNER AND CONGRESS.

Communications from (a) Miss Baines, F.B.C.N., Assistant Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, stating that Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C., who is a member of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, will be pleased to represent Matilda the Good, wife of Henry I, at the History Dinner and at the Tableau to take place at the I.C.N. Congress in Paris, on July 11th.

Letters from (b) Miss Lloyd Still, President, and (c) Miss Cox-Davies, Hon. Secretary of the Association of Hospital Matrons, stating that a sub-committee has been convened to consider the matter of nominating a member of the Association to represent an "Historic" Royal Nurse at the History Dinner on May 4th, and in the Tableau to be held at the I.C.N. Congress in Paris on July 11th, and (d) from Miss Sparshott, President, College of Nursing, asking for further particulars and (e) letter from Assistant Secretary stating that the matter will be considered at a meeting on Friday, 24th February.

Letter from Miss H. Lamb, M.B.C.N., Matron, Claybury Mental Hospital, stating she will be unable to attend History Dinner, but sending postal order for one ticket.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Miss Lamb.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A large number of letters were received and considered.

Letter from Mrs. M. Draper, asking if the College knows of ladies who are retired and wish to live away from London, as she has in her house at 289, Barnsole Road, Gillingham, Kent, sitting room, bedroom and kitchen for two sharing, £2 per week, including gas, light and firing. Address taken by some members of the Council.

Letter from Miss M. Millican, M.B.C.N., sending article *re* her work of training girls in China.

Letters of application to attend the Spring Course of Classes on Hospital Administration have been received from:—

Miss Payne, Matron, Warren Road Hospital, Guildford.

Miss M. E. Stewart, Matron, Wyke House, Isleworth.

Miss D. Moase, Housekeeper, Prince of Wales' Hospital.

Miss G. E. Davies, 2nd Assistant Matron, Prince of Wales' Hospital.

Miss A. Russell, Sister Tutor, Mildmay Mission Hospital.

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