

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The half-yearly meeting of the National Council of Nurses will be held on April 24th, at Headquarters, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, at 4.30 p.m. Tea, by invitation of the President, will be served at 4 p.m.

Application for affiliation from Nurses' Organisations on the form provided from the office, should reach the Hon. Secretary, Miss S. A. Villiers, not later than Saturday, April 21st. The names of new Presidents and Delegates should be sent to the Hon. Secretary by the same date.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Florence Nightingale Advisory Committee met on March 13th, at 39, Portland Place, W.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the chair, and the following members were present:—

Miss S. A. Villiers (Hon. Secretary), Miss Allbutt, Miss Bushby, Miss Cowie, Miss Littleboy, Miss Macaulay, and Miss E. M. Musson.

Letters of regret were received from Miss M. S. Cochrane, Miss H. Dey, and Miss Lloyd-Still.

Florence Nightingale Scholarship.

It was reported that there was £644 16s. 5d. in the bank, and it was agreed that a scholarship of £250 should be allotted for the 1934-35 term at Bedford College. It was agreed that the President, Miss Cochrane and Miss Musson form a Committee to select a suitable candidate, as the matter of selection was urgent, names having to be submitted by April 1st. It was agreed to circularise the large training schools affiliated in the Council and invite nominations.

The future financial policy of the National Council in relation to the Florence Nightingale International Foundation was discussed, and it was agreed to make recommendations to the Executive Committee at its meeting in April.

The meeting then terminated.

THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association was held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W., on Saturday, March 3rd, at 2.30 p.m.

Miss Macaulay was in the Chair.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss Taylor, read letters of regret and other correspondence.

The Hon. Treasurer, Miss Hearder, reported that she had received letters acknowledging donations to the Elderly Nurses' Fund, the Nation's Fund for Nurses and the House Beautiful and Helena Benevolent Funds of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Miss Edwards, of Barnwood House, Gloucester, was elected, and Miss Scott-Seymour re-elected to the Executive Committee.

Miss G. Jones, Matron of Somerset and Bath Mental Hospital, and Mrs. M. Lediard, Matron of Middlesex Colony, Shenley, were elected members of the Association.

Miss Richardson opened a discussion on the following resolution:—"That the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association oppose any suggestion to hand over the teaching of Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene and kindred subjects to the secondary schools. The Mental Hospital Matrons'

Association consider that it would take from the nursing profession a branch of education which is distinctly within its province, and which can only be carried out in its applied aspects by members of the medical and nursing professions." Many members took part in the discussion and the majority voted in favour of the resolution.

A report on the progress of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses was given by Miss Richardson.

Miss Macaulay read an interesting paper on "Mental Nursing, Past and Present."

The next meeting of the Association will be held at the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone, on Saturday, June 2nd.

THE LEAGUE OF CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL NURSES.

No. 2 of *The League News* of Charing Cross Hospital Nurses is just issued. On its cherry-red cover is an inset of the Hospital—and also the Badge, with the motto, "Serve God and be Cheerful." And this reminds us that an "Association of Optimists" has been formed, which, let us hope, will hunt the "inferiority complex" out of existence.

The President's (Miss M. S. Cochrane) letter tells of the success of "Paris-Brussels" and does justice to its indefatigable organisers, led by Mlle. Chaptal and Mlle. Hellemans, and ends with good wishes to members of the League—"good health, honour and happiness in your life and work."

Notes on the history of Charing Cross Hospital are of great interest, and it is quite wonderful to note how pioneers, medical and otherwise, are coming into their own. We want to know more of Dr. Benjamin Golding, aged 21, who opened his house in Leicester Place in 1815, a district which in those days contained some of the worst slums in London, for the relief of the poor and needy, and in three years 20,000 persons had the free benefit of his medical knowledge—and we have no doubt of the benefit of his brave heart. Dr. Golding was the inspiration and promoter of Charing Cross Hospital, to which he devoted forty-five years of untiring labour. This great physician in his final address could claim with pride that "This Hospital is not only devoid of debt and outstanding liability of every kind . . . but it has never during its progress known what it is to be in debt or pecuniary difficulty of any kind." A fine tradition adhered to this day. This great man died in 1863.

Surely it is fitting to quote the words of the Founder of the hospital:—

"To do justice to the merits of those who have gone before us, by recording their names with honourable Praise, is but a duty we owe them; to freshen the annals of history with the recital of their charitable deeds, and transmitting them to posterity as examples worthy of imitation is the best way of evincing our respect for departed worth, and of rendering its influence permanently useful to mankind."

It has remained for the *League News* of "the Cross" to set before its members a shining example associated with their Alma Mater which they may emulate—each in her own sphere.

The *News* is full of matters of interest to members of the League. Space forbids quotes, but we are pleased to note that "Our beautiful home in England's Lane is flourishing and much appreciated by the Nursing Staff who are lucky enough to be sent there to reside. We hear the work of building the second wing is commencing shortly, and when completed the whole of the Nursing Staff will then be under one roof. The plan of taking the staff to and fro from Haverstock Hill by special motor bus has proved a great success."

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