

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The eighty-seventh Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, April 21st, 1934 at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, at 2.15 p.m.

The Vice-President, Miss A. M. Bushby, was in the Chair, and there were present:—Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss J. C. Cowie, 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.

On rising, Miss Bushby placed before the Council a letter she had received from the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in which she expressed her regret that she could not be with them, and sending good wishes for a successful meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the President, expressing the unanimous hope of all present that she would benefit by rest and sea air.

### BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

Letter received from Dr. Somerville Hastings, Chairman, Hospitals and Medical Services Committee, L.C.C., in reply to Resolution sent from the Council of the British College of Nurses, requesting that a registered nurse be appointed to the vacancy on the Hospitals and Medical Services Committee, stating that "I am sorry that the personnel of the Committee had been elected before I received your letter."

Letter received from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in reply to a Resolution sent from the British College of Nurses, expressing the opinion that documents under discussion by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales (when not *in camera*) should be supplied to the members of the Press present at the Meeting, so that a correct report of the business transacted may be available:—

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES,  
20, Portland Place,  
London, W.1.

23rd March, 1934.

DEAR MADAM,—The Chairman of the Council has asked me to acknowledge your letter of March 21st enclosing copy of Resolution passed by the British College of Nurses on March 17th.

I enclose herewith a copy of the letter (approved by Council on 23rd February) which was sent to the General Nursing Council for Scotland in regard to their draft Rule 22 (D).

The Chairman desires me to say that she regrets that owing to an oversight a copy of this letter was not forwarded to the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING when sending the draft Rule to which it refers. A copy of the reply would have been sent had any request for it been received.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) G. E. DAVIES,  
Registrar.

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

### THE SPLIT PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IN SCOTLAND.

The correspondence between the College and Mr. W. S. Farmer, Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland, was presented as published in the April issue (page 104) of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The Council of the College was awaiting a reply to its communication to the General Nursing Council for Scotland dated March 27th.

This letter has been acknowledged by the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, who states it will be placed before the next Meeting of his Council.

### THE CONTRACEPTIVES BILL.

In reply to the Resolution sent from the Council of the British College of Nurses re the Contraceptives Bill, "To

regulate the sale and advertisement of contraceptives" introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Dawson of Penn, that "under Clause 1, Sub-section (i) the words 'registered nurse or certified midwife' should be omitted, as their inclusion provides for the treatment of patients by registered nurses and midwives without medical direction."

The following letters have been received:—

(a) Lord Dawson—"begs to acknowledge with thanks your communication."

(b) The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of London, P.C., K.C.V.O.:—"The Bill has now passed the third reading in the House of Lords, and therefore no amendments can now be made in the House of Lords."

"Any Amendments which you think necessary can be forwarded to whoever is in charge of it in the House of Commons, but I am afraid it will not come before the House of Commons at present."

(c) The Secretary of Lt.-Cdr. The Rt. Hon. Sir Hilton Young, G.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P., Minister of Health:—

"Sir Hilton Young has asked me to thank you for your letter of March 19th and for sending him a copy of the Resolution with regard to the Contraceptives Bill adopted by your Council on March 17th."

(d) Sir Francis Fremantle, O.B.E., M.P., Chairman, Parliamentary Medical Committee, House of Commons:—

"Thank you for your letter of the 21st inst., I quite agree; it seems a most astonishing proposal. But there does not seem to be the remotest chance of the Bill being introduced into this House this Session; and before another Session the British College of Nurses might well ask Lord Dawson if he would agree to the words in question being omitted."

(e) Dr. Somerville Hastings, M.S., F.R.C.S., Chairman, The Hospitals and Medical Services Committee, London County Council:—

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 21st instant with regard to Lord Dawson of Penn's Bill 'To regulate the sale and advertisement of contraceptives,' and note the views of the College which you have been kind enough to send to me. I am afraid, however, that the matter to which you refer hardly comes within the sphere of the County Council as no registered nurses or midwives employed by them would be allowed to engage in any business such as that of the sale of contraceptives."

"I have no doubt that the point which you make will be fully considered by the proper authority, which is Parliament."

The following reply was sent to Dr. Somerville Hastings:—

"I beg to thank you for your kind letter of March 23rd. I note your statement concerning the matter to which I referred, that it 'hardly comes within the sphere of the County Council, as no registered nurses or midwives employed by them would be allowed to engage in any business such as that of the sale of contraceptives.'

"With all due deference to this expression of opinion, should registered nurses and certified midwives be empowered by Act of Parliament to sell contraceptives, it would be extremely difficult for any Public Body such as the London County Council, employing nurses, to over-ride the provisions of Parliament."

"You will realise, therefore, that my Council is of opinion that prevention is better than cure, and we hope that should this Bill be introduced into the House of Commons, the influential Committee of which you are Chair, will help to prevent a most dangerous proposal in reference to the professional relations of medicine and nursing, from becoming law."

(f) The Registrar, The General Medical Council in acknowledging letter, states:—"Your observations have been noted."

(g) Dr. G. C. Anderson, M.D., Medical Secretary, British Medical Association, acknowledging letter and stating:—

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)