

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The eighty-eighth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, May 26th, 1934 at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1 at 2.15 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present:—Miss M. Breay and Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-Presidents; Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss J. C. Cowie, and Miss I. Macdonald, Fellows.

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

Regrets for absence were received from Miss H. G. Ballard, Miss E. J. Haswell, Miss D. K. Graham, and Miss G. Le Geyt.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

1. Letter received by the Secretary *re* the division of the Preliminary Examination of Nurses from Mr. W. S. Farmer, Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland:—

DEAR MADAM,

Referring to your letter of 27th ult., I have now had an opportunity of submitting this to the Council.

I am instructed to inform you that as stated in my letter of 24th ult., they have no intention of financing the setting up of courses of instruction in Anatomy, etc., in educational institutions. It is presumed that the cost of these, as of most other educational courses, will be borne either by the pupils or by the educational authorities concerned. The Council do not feel any responsibility in regard to that side of the matter, but before approving of any course, they will require to be satisfied as to its educational efficiency from the nursing point of view.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. S. FARMER, Registrar.

2. *Contraceptives Bill.*

Letter received from Captain Cunningham-Reid, D.F.C., M.P., informing the Secretary of the position in regard to the Contraceptives Bill in the House of Commons.

Communication sent by the Secretary for information of Captain Cunningham-Reid, M.P.:—

"I am directed to say that the Nursing and Midwifery Statutory Authorities are opposed to Clause 1, sub-section (i) which permits Registered Nurses and Certified Midwives to sell contraceptives without medical direction, and I herewith enclose copies of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for April and May with information of resolutions passed by the following organisations:—

(1) The General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, see Resolution on page 135.

(2) The British College of Nurses, see Resolution, page 134.

(3) Letter from the Royal British Nurses' Association, page 98 in the April issue.

The following Bodies have also passed the following Resolutions:—

The Midwives' Institute: 'The Council of the Midwives' Institute Incorporated, has considered Lord Dawson's Bill to restrict the sale, display and advertisement of contraceptives, and agreed that the words in Clause 1, sub-section (d) 'the sale or offer for sale . . . by . . . registered nurse or certified midwife' should be omitted."

The Central Midwives Board: "recommends—

(1) That the Secretary of the Midwives' Institute be informed that the Board is in agreement with the Resolution passed by the Council of the Institute so far as certified Midwives are concerned.

(2) That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Home Office."

Letter from Miss M. Littleboy, Matron, London Hospital, stating that a small number of pupils are taken in the London Hospital Dietetic Wards, that there are no vacancies until 1935, the charge being £3 3s. per week if resident, and 30s. per week if non-resident.

PRESENTATION TO MISS M. S. COCHRANE, R.R.C.

The President reported a letter she had received from Miss F. H. M. Emory, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, welcoming the news that Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., would attend the forthcoming celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of the Canadian Nurses' Association in June. She thought all would agree that it was a very generous gesture on Miss Cochrane's part when she undertook this mission at her own expense. On realising how great the cost would be, the members of the Council had gladly responded to her invitation to contribute towards expenses. Mrs. Fenwick then handed a cheque from her colleagues on the Council for £34 5s. to Miss Cochrane, with their warm good wishes for the success and enjoyment of her visit to Canada as the representative of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Canadian Nurses' Association in Toronto. Mrs. Fenwick added that she was specially interested in this wonderful gathering as she had taken an active part in urging the organisation of the Canadian Nurses' Association a quarter of a century ago by the Mother of Nursing in Canada, the late Miss Agnes Snively, who alas! had just passed away before seeing the forthcoming triumph of her initiative in this connection. In reply to a request the Treasurer of the College had made a grant of £15 15s. towards the cost of Miss Cochrane's expenses in recognition of her valuable services as a Fellow of the British College of Nurses, making a gift of £50 in all.

Miss Cochrane, to whom the gift came as a surprise, speaking with some emotion, said how very deeply she appreciated the generosity of the members of the Council and how deeply grateful she was to them, not only for the substantial cheque but also for the great friendliness that prompted them all to give and to give so generously. "It will make all the difference," she said, "to know that in undertaking this delightful mission I have the kind thoughts and good wishes of colleagues with whom I have held such harmonious relations for so long on the Council of this College. I shall do my very utmost to do credit to its high standards of professional ethics. I shall never forget this delightful surprise."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"Weekly Bulletin" sent from the High Commissioner, Canada House, London, S.W.1, in which is published "British Nurses send Greetings to their Canadian Colleagues."

Letter from Miss M. Jacobs, Matron, The Ontario Hospital, London, Ontario, with the interesting information of how the Alumnae Association of that School of Nursing raised the money for their contribution to the "Florence Nightingale Memorial Fund," and also sending snapshots of groups of nurses taken outside the nurses' residences, with programme of the Commencement Exercises of the Training School for Nurses, held in the Assembly Hall at the Hospital on May 3rd.

Letter from Miss M. C. Kennedy, F.B.C.N., (a) asking for information *re* salaries of district nurses, and (b) post-card thanking for information (obtained through the kindness of Miss Wilmshurst) received "which will be most valuable."

Letter from Mrs. E. H. Mavor (*née* Hurst) stating that she was married on February 3rd, 1934. Letter of congratulation to be sent.

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