

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The ninetieth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, July 21st, 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, Vice-President, Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss F. M. Campbell, Fellows. Letters of regret were notified from several members of the Council on annual holiday.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Miss S. A. Villiers consenting to stand for re-election on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women.

Letter from the Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, stating: "I have pleasure in informing you that at the Meeting of the Finance Committee on Thursday last it was decided that a copy of the Register of Nurses should be presented to the British College of Nurses annually free of charge. I am therefore sending you under separate cover a copy of the Register for the year 1934." It was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, expressing thanks and appreciation for the very useful gift of a copy of the Nurses' Register, 1934, and for its decision that a copy be presented annually free of charge.

List of Centres where Preliminary and Final Examinations for October, 1934, will be held, received from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Re Appointment of Departmental Committee to enquire into the training and system of nurses' registration in Scotland.

The President drew the attention of the Council to the formation of the above Committee, particulars of which were published in the July issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The following letter addressed to the President had been received from Mr. W. Mercer, Secretary to this Committee:—

July 19th, 1934.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF NURSES.

DEAR MADAM,

I am in receipt of your memorandum of 14th inst. and reply to your questions as follows:—

(1) The regular sessions of the Committee will be held in Edinburgh.

(2) The dates on which sessions will be held have not yet been fixed, but it is proposed that the next meeting should take place about the middle of October, and sessions will probably be held either weekly or fortnightly after that on dates to suit the convenience of the members.

(3) Meetings will not be open to representatives of Nurses' Organisations apart from witnesses of such bodies attending on any particular day. The Press also will not be present but notices will be issued to the Press from time to time.

(4) An official report containing the recommendations of the Committee will be published at the completion of the enquiry, but it is not proposed to publish the verbatim evidence of witnesses.

I might add that the Committee would welcome evidence from your Council, and I should be pleased to receive a memorandum on the subject of the enquiry if you should care to submit one.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) W. MERCER,

Secretary to the Committee.

The Council unanimously agreed that the following letter be sent to Mr. W. Mercer, Secretary to the Committee:—

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 19th inst., which was

placed before the Council of the British College of Nurses at its Meeting on Saturday, July 21st, and my Council much regrets to find that the meetings of the Sessions of the Departmental Committee on Training of Nurses will not be open to the public or to the Press, and that the evidence will not be published, so that the Report issued will not possess the value of reasoned opinion.

The Council of the British College of Nurses decided under these circumstances, not to accept your invitation to give evidence, or to send a memorandum on the subject under consideration

My Council is of opinion that all Departmental Committees, which are financed by the State, should be open to the public.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,

Secretary.

An article published in the *Glasgow Herald* was also considered referring to the immediate issue of the Inquiry as being "the length of time which a nurse these days must spend in training before she can claim to be an all round as distinct from a general nurse."

Copy of message sent from the Chair at the Annual Meeting of the British College of Nurses held on July 10th to Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, M.A., on her appointment as Hon. President of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

Letter from Miss Sally Round. She has been asked to give a paper on State Registration at the forthcoming Nursing Conference to be held in Bombay in November, and asked for particulars of its objects, etc. Advised to write for advice to the President, Trained Nurses' Association of India, who would possess knowledge of local conditions and politics.

Letter from Miss Cowe, F.B.C.N., conveying her thanks to the President and warm appreciation of her kindness in inserting a paragraph about Ye Olde House, Elham, in the June issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. She writes "at last I have made a good beginning and hope to carry on successfully."

A large number of letters of a private nature were considered.

The Preliminary List of Resolutions for consideration at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain, were considered, and approved or disapproved for the guidance of delegates.

ELECTION OF A VICE-PRESIDENT.

Miss Isabel Macdonald was unanimously elected a Vice-President of the College, Miss Bushby's two years' term of office having expired.

The President thanked Miss Bushby for her efficient help, and was pleased she would still remain a member of the Council. She expressed her pleasure at the election of Miss Macdonald as Vice-President, and looked forward to her help and support always so generously given to the work of the College.

Miss Bushby expressed thanks to the President and Council.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following members were elected Chairmen of the Standing Committees:—

Education and Examination: Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C.

Political, Economic and Legal Protection: Miss M. Breay.

Social Schemes: Miss I. Macdonald.

Finance: Dr. Bedford Fenwick.

Public Health: Miss H. G. Ballard.

History of Nursing: Miss A. M. Bushby.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)