

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Eighty-fourth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, January 20th, 1934.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-President; Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, Fellows; and Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss Haswell, Members.

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

DEATH OF MISS HELEN LUCY PEARSE.

The President, on rising, reported, with the very deepest regret, the death of Miss Helen L. Pearse, a past Vice-President of the College, which occurred on December 27th. The President spoke warmly of her distinguished work and lovable personality, and felt sure the Council would wish to send an expression of sympathy to her brothers. This was the unanimous wish of the Council.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay, Vice-President; Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., and Miss J. C. Cowie, Fellows.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

Letters received from the following members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, acknowledging the vote of thanks sent by the President and Council for the support given by them at the Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on November 24th, to the Recommendation of its Education Committee:—

"That the Council re-affirm the decision made by the Council on July 22nd, 1932, viz., 'That the Council is of opinion that it would not be in the interests of the candidates nor of the Profession that the Preliminary Examination should be divided.'"

(a) Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Chairman.

(b) Miss W. Bowling: Thanks the President for her kind letter. She feels strongly that in supporting the Recommendation of the Education Committee she is supporting what is ultimately the best for the Profession as well as what is the wish of the Profession to-day.

(c) Miss E. S. Innes: "I greatly appreciate your letter received this morning from the Council of the British College of Nurses, thanking me for my support at the Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales against the division of the Preliminary State Examination. I feel very strongly on that point and shall certainly do all I can to support the decision ratified on November 24th. I feel that to divide the Examination would be a serious retrograde step. Thanking you again for your kindness."

(d) Miss Mary Jones: "I beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, your communication of to-day and may I thank you for all you have done to maintain the One Portal Examination on the State Register?"

(e) Mr. W. H. Harper, House Governor, the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton: "I shall be glad if you will kindly accept yourself and convey to your colleagues of the Council of the British College of Nurses an expression of my thanks for your kind letter of the 18th inst."

2. Letter from Miss M. Breay in reply to thanks from the Council for the exhaustive Report compiled by her of the debate which took place at the Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on November 24th, on "The Training of Nurses," who wrote: "Will you convey to the Council of the British College of Nurses my very warm appreciation of their kind message?"

To me it was a privilege to have the opportunity of attending that Meeting and writing the Report, but fundamentally the thanks are due to the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for the space given to it, for nowhere else has a report appeared in the press of any completeness."

Other letters on this question were received and considered.

The President proposed that a Special Open Meeting be held to explain the reasons against the proposal to divide the Preliminary State Examination of Nurses, as proposed by *The Lancet* Commission, and embodied in the Resolution recommended by the National Council of Women of Great Britain.

(b) Speakers were nominated to take part in the meeting.

(c) It was agreed that the Meeting be held early in March, and that the invitation be extended to all Nurses who signified a wish to be present.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Mr. S. E. Edge, Mayor of Walsall,

(a) stating that the Walsall people would be paying homage to the memory of Sister Dora on Tuesday, 16th inst. (her birthday), and enclosing circular with regard to the ceremony, and

(b) sending from the Mayor and Mayoress copy of memorial card of Dorothy Wyndlow Pattison (Sister Dora). and

(c) sending copy of extract from Minutes *re* relics belonging to Sister Dora. It was agreed that a vote of thanks be sent to Mr. S. E. Edge, the Mayor of Walsall, for his courtesy.

Letter from Miss A. E. Rider, F.B.C.N., sending a cutting of "The Story of a Hampshire Pilgrimage" from the *Hampshire Advertiser*. It was agreed to place this exceedingly interesting article in the History Section, and that thanks be sent to Miss A. E. Rider.

Letter from Miss D. Warren, D.N., M.B.C.N., Barbados, sending the President and Council heartiest greetings for Christmas and the New Year, and giving the interesting news "We have not had an idle year here, for this year has seen our first Preliminary State Examination. The result was really surprisingly good, although due in many cases I'm afraid to the wonderful patience of the examiners. Luckily most of our examiners are used to dealing with the natives, who certainly have a peculiar mentality. We hope next year to hold a final examination. Miss Page, our Sister-Tutor, is working hard to that end."

Letter from Miss L. J. Cakebread, M.B.C.N., stating that she has been appointed Assistant Housekeeper at University College Hospital. Instructions were given that a letter of congratulation be sent to Miss Cakebread, as she had evidently availed herself of the valuable instruction at University College Hospital, for which she had received a grant.

Letter from Miss S. E. Cowe, F.B.C.N., stating that she has furnished a house at Ye Olde House, Elham, near Canterbury, Kent, and would like to take paying guests or convalescent patients there, and would be glad if the College could recommend her "nice old house—bits of it date from the 11th century, and the views over the Elham Valley are lovely, and the air very good, both sea and country."

Letter from Miss G. M. Saddler, M.B.C.N., stating that she begins her Midwifery Training, for which she has received a grant, at the Maternity Nursing Association, 63, Myddelton Square, on January 25th.

Letter from Miss L. A. Hallett, M.B.C.N., that she will sit for the examination in Tropical Diseases on January 23rd and 25th.

Letter from Miss E. L. Ashby, Matron, The Marie Curie Hospital, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3, that she will be glad to arrange to show a party of members round the Hospital

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