

**ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.**

Applications for Membership were approved, and the candidates elected.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

The President presented a satisfactory Financial Statement since the last Meeting of the Council.

**REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.**

Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman of the History of Nursing Section, reported that she had procured a photograph of the Cemetery at Scutari, also a fairly early edition of "The Principles and Practice of Medicine," by Osler. Miss Bushby also reported that Miss Hordley, R.R.C., Principal Matron, Army of Occupation on the Rhine, had presented her with a paper tablecloth, as used by the Army of Occupation. This was on view.

It was reported that in collaboration with Miss I. Macdonald, Miss Bushby is preparing an Anthology from the literary works, letters, etc., of Florence Nightingale, and hoped that it might be ready and on sale by the end of the year.

The President thanked Miss Bushby for her Report and gifts.

**THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.**

It was reported that since the last Meeting of the Council there had been 15 visitors to the College, many of whom expressed deep interest in its work and appointments.

**HISTORY SECTION.**

With the balance in hand of £3 2s. a Florence Nightingale Silver Medal has been purchased, the cost of which was £2, which leaves a balance in hand of £1 2s.

**ADMINISTRATION CLASS.**

Miss E. F. Eburah, M.B.C.N., who accompanied the Administration Class to the Epileptic Colony, Chalfont St. Giles, on Tuesday, April 9th, reported that the class had much appreciated the opportunity that had been offered them of visiting this Epileptic Colony. They had learned much of the marvellous work that is going on in the treatment of epilepsy, and had been privileged to know that the life of an epileptic in this Colony is a busy and happy one, so far as health permits.

Miss L. A. Parry, F.B.C.N., is the Matron there, and every possible preparation had been made by her for the reception of her fellow colleagues in the British College of Nurses, and a very instructive afternoon was planned. A delicious tea was greatly enjoyed.

The members of the Class expressed the greatest hope that more classes would be arranged, as they derived much pleasure and instruction from these visits.

**TO DECIDE DATE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING.**

It was decided that as Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., the Chairman of this Committee, was unable to be present at the Council Meeting, she be asked to arrange a date convenient to her duties.

**LIST OF GIFTS.**

Miss A. M. Bushby: "The Principles and Practice of Medicine," by Osler; Picture of the Cemetery at Scutari; Paper tablecloth used by the Army of Occupation on the Rhine.

Miss Jessie Holmes: The British Pharmacopœia, 1914; "Scottish Women's Hospital at the French Abbey of Royaumont," by Antonio de Navarro.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING: "A Doctor Talks," by James McDonnell, M.C., M.R.C.S.

Anonymous: Badge of the National Union of Trained Nurses.

Miss M. Breay: "The King's Grace," 1910-1935, by John Buchan.

Mrs. M. O. Goad, Flowers.

Miss A. A. Macwilliam: Flowers.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.**

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Saturday, May 18th.

**OTHER BUSINESS.**

The following Recommendation was unanimously adopted by the Council:

"That the Grants for Midwifery Training be awarded to nurses who are prepared to give not less than one year's work as Midwives in the hope of lessening Maternal Mortality."

Under "Other Business" several matters of professional interest were informally discussed.

It was agreed that past Councillors should have a standing invitation to take tea with the Council after the monthly meeting, and should intimate the Secretary of their intention to be present as guests.

It was realised that by this means past Members of Council could keep in touch and confer with their colleagues on matters of current interest.

The meeting then terminated.

**FIXTURES.**

May 13th.—Florence Nightingale Thanksgiving Day. At Home. Nightingale Treasures on view. 3.30 to 6 p.m. Tea 1s., 4.30 to 6 p.m. Collecting Box opened, 5.30 p.m. R.S.V.P. to the Secretary, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

May 18th.—Monthly meeting of the Council. 2.30 p.m.

**ELIZABETH ALKIN****A Florence Nightingale of the Commonwealth.**

Appropriately, just before May 12th there has been published the lecture on Elizabeth Alkin (Parliament Joan), a Florence Nightingale of the Commonwealth, delivered by Miss Isabel Macdonald, at the British College of Nurses, on Registration Day, 1934.

Just as Florence Nightingale is known as "The Lady with the Lamp," so has Miss Macdonald named Parliament Joan "The Lady with the Candle," for this heroic Cromwellian nurse passed with her candle—"sometimes even that was not available—among the sadly inadequate hospitals of the Parliamentarians where Cavaliers and Roundheads were nursed by her with equal devotion and self-sacrifice."

Documents are extant proving the appreciation by the Government of the services of Parliament Joan. In the Calendar of State Papers the following entry appears:—

"Petition of Elizabeth Alkin (*alias* Parliament Joan) to Council for place of nurse to the maimed seamen at Dover. Has been faithful and serviceable to the State upon all occasions in the late wars, in which she day and night hazarded her life, and was a great help to the imprisoned and maimed soldiers."

And a few days later, under the Proceedings of the Council:—

At the Council of State, Whitehall—

Ordered. That the petition of Elizabeth Alkin be recommended to the Commissioners for the Admiralty to do therein what is desired by the petitioner.

E. JO. THURLOE.  
Clerk of the Council.

Miss Macdonald writes in conclusion:—

"A shadowy figure is this for she is far from the limelight now, a figure slender and twisted with the 'infirmities' that assailed her when she 'hazarded her life' for 'this Commonwealth'—a figure in a gown of gray. Under the quaint old-time puritan bonnet is a face with such lines as sorrow and hardship leave, but the eyes are quiet and fearless, the mouth strong, yet tender and kind, for 'it pities her to see poor people in distress.' Such was

**"THE LADY WITH THE CANDLE."**

The pamphlet will be on sale on Nightingale Day (observed on May 13th) at the British College of Nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)