

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The ninety-ninth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, May 18th, 1935, at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss I. Macdonald, Vice President; Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss J. C. Cowie, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Fellows, and Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss E. F. Eburah, Members.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed and signed.

Miss M. Breay and Miss F. M. Campbell intimated inability to attend.

On rising, the President welcomed Miss Bryson back, her first day on duty, after her long illness, and said how pleased the Council were to have her to help them again.

Miss Bryson in expressing pleasure that she was once more able to resume her duties thanked the President and the Council for their kind sympathy and consideration during her long absence.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

The following communication was reported from Captain Cunningham Reid, D.F.C., M.P. :—

House of Commons,
April 24th, 1935.

Miss Stewart Bryson, F.B.C.N.,
The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, W.1.

DEAR MISS BRYSON,—Thank you for your letter of April 10th, which I should have answered before, but I have only just returned from abroad.

I note with interest that the Council of the British College of Nurses did not approve of the recent Peace Ballot. The position which I have adopted in this matter is a constitutional one, irrespective of the merits of the Ballot, and it will, I think, best be made clear to you by the enclosed copy of the letter which I sent to Dr. Poulton at the time when this matter first arose.

Yours sincerely,
A. CUNNINGHAM REID.

December 10th, 1934.

DEAR DR. POULTON,—Thank you for your letter of December 1st, and for the advance copy of the Open Letter giving its text and a number of signatories.

Let me say at once that I would of course always be pleased to receive any deputation headed by Lord Horder, and of which you were the secretary, but I do not wish to take up your time unnecessarily, which I feel I would be doing in this case. I have given your communication the most careful consideration, and have come definitely to the following decision.

Leaving out of the question the pros and cons of your campaign, I cannot make a special appeal to all Marylebone on your behalf. Such serious questions as Peace and War are the responsibility of the Government of the day, duly elected by a majority of the people. I was elected as a supporter of the present Government, and as such it would be improper for me to back any outside organisation that is attempting to decide a major policy, as this can only be the function of the Government, and incidentally a Government which is quite capable of dealing with it in the best possible way. If I felt that the Government, even with all the facts and inside information at its disposal, could not be trusted with such grave matters I would no longer remain a supporter.

For these and other reasons, I think it would be best if when conducting your campaign, your Committee were to leave me out of their considerations.

I appreciate that it is a signal honour and responsibility to represent the medical and nursing profession in Parliament, and though I am not able to comply with your present request, I think I may claim that since I have been Member for Marylebone I have always done my utmost to further their interests.

Yours very truly,
A. CUNNINGHAM REID.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Captain Cunningham Reid to thank him for his courtesy in explaining the policy he has adopted in reference to the Peace Ballot.

Letters thanking the Council for its congratulations from (a) Miss M. Wakefield, F.B.C.N., on her appointment as Matron of Bexley Mental Hospital, and (b) Miss Nellie Williams, M.B.C.N., on her appointment as Sister Tutor to three Hospitals under the Surrey County Council, also expressing appreciation that the announcement of her appointment was published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Dr. Elwell giving a report of Miss A. S. Bryson's progress.

Letter from Miss R. Colles, F.B.C.N., asking if the Council would not re-consider its decision concerning the Peace Ballot.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Miss Colles pointing out that the Council was unable to reconsider its decision collectively not to sign the Peace Ballot, and that of course, each member of the Council and of the College were free to sign the Ballot in their individual capacity.

Letter from Mrs. Lampard, F.B.C.N., enclosing her annual subscription and 18s. for the Collecting Box for Florence Nightingale Thanksgiving Day, and asking for the interest of members for an Iraqi lady whom she is sending to train in England.

Letter from Miss E. Trenaman, F.B.C.N., sending thanks for Christmas Greetings, and saying that South Australia is busy trying to raise funds for a Florence Nightingale Scholarship.

Letter from Miss G. Fairley, M.B.C.N., Matron, Vancouver General Hospital, of thanks for information, and stating that she is giving a letter of introduction to the head of their Outdoor Department, who is spending some months in Britain, and is looking forward to visiting the College.

Reply offering help had been sent.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

Applications for Membership received 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:

I have at last been able to obtain the letter which has been kept for me from Miss Florence Nightingale. It is an interesting letter written to a Miss Mochter, thanking her for looking after her mother, also for all the trouble she had taken in the village people, and for giving out the help bestowed on them by Miss Nightingale. The letter is written on three and a half sheets of paper, and was written on November 12th, 1879.

This letter was bought by Miss Cowie, Miss Allbutt and myself.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)