

THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Ninth Annual General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W. on July 6th at 3 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, F.B.C.N., was in the chair in her Robes of Office, supported by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Treasurer and Trustee.

The following Councillors and ex-Councillors were also present in their Robes, giving dignity and brightness to the proceedings: Miss M. Breay and Miss Isabel Macdonald (Vice-Presidents), Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss J. C. Cowie and Miss Norah Farrant (Fellows) and Miss E. F. Eburah (Member) and there was a good attendance of Fellows and Members.

The President called upon the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, to read the notice convening the meeting. This having been done, and prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

THE NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The President then presented the Ninth Annual Report for 1934-1935, which was a comprehensive statement covering the activities of the College and touching on its educational, economic, political, social, and international work. Owing to lack of space this Report will not appear until our next issue.

The Report having been received the President said it was now open for discussion.

Miss Farrant expressed her thanks to the President and Council for their vigilance in guarding the interests of nurses. This vigilance she said was very necessary. Both their interests and those of the sick poor were still assailed by reputable bodies. She instanced the proposal to establish a separate panel of nurses for the chronically sick, and emphasised the danger of leaving these patients to the care of unskilled persons. In the Domiciliary Nursing Services Bill there was no provision to ensure that nurses should be properly trained, and in her pamphlet "Maternity Services," Dame Janet Campbell proposed the creation of a hybrid person as a midwife with a foundation of one or two years' general training and a two years' course in midwifery. To achieve this Dame Janet suggested that it would be necessary to reconsider the Constitution and functions of the General Nursing Council and the Central Midwives Board and it might be found desirable to merge the duties and powers of both under one professional Council. Miss Farrant, therefore, emphasised the value of the work of the Council in holding a watching brief in the interest of the Nursing Profession, and expressed her grateful thanks to the President in this connection.

The President thanked Miss Farrant for her expert criticism.

She then commented on the reference in the Report to the Florence Nightingale International Memorial and said that the nurses in Great Britain had been extraordinarily generous so that more than £370, mostly in small sums, had been collected for the Scholarships Fund of the National Council of Nurses, and in collections in hospital chapels, including a promised £50 from the collection in the chapel of St Thomas's Hospital on May 12th. She thought this was the right way to make collections for the Florence Nightingale Memorial; not by street appeals but by offerings in the House of God.

The President further spoke of the need for working for representation of Nursing by a Registered Nurse on the Hospitals Committee of the London County Council.

The adoption of the Report was then moved by Mrs. Barnett, seconded by Miss E. E. Fowler, and carried unanimously.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick then presented the audited accounts for the past year, explained them and moved "that the audited accounts to June 30th be received and adopted and a printed copy entered on the Minutes."

Miss J. C. Cowie having seconded the Treasurer's motion, Miss Le Geyt emphasised the extraordinary debt of gratitude due to Dr. Fenwick. Those who came across financial transactions at the present time knew how extremely difficult it was to produce a balance sheet having a balance on the right side. The Fellows and Members should indeed be thankful for the profound wisdom of Dr. Fenwick which had achieved this in the case of the British College of Nurses. She invited those present to show their gratitude by endeavouring to get others to join the College.

Miss Isabel Macdonald said that the majority of working nurses had no idea of the tremendous work involved in managing the finance of such a body as the College. She thanked Dr. Fenwick most deeply for his self-sacrificing work on its behalf.

The President commended to those present Miss Le Geyt's recommendation that they should endeavour to interest their colleagues to join the College. Fellows and Members were lost by death, and in these difficult times, with depleted incomes, and often family responsibilities, nurses sometimes felt that they could not afford to maintain their connection with their professional associations. She pointed out the importance however of supporting an association which had their professional and economic interests at heart. If nurses were a profession they must contribute their quota in its support, either in work or time or subscriptions.

She pointed out that a large number of Members of the College were most generous to one another.

The audited accounts were adopted unanimously, together with a warm expression of thanks to the Treasurer.

Dr. Fenwick then moved:—

"That the most grateful thanks of the Annual Meeting of the British College of Nurses be and hereby are accorded to the President, Vice-Presidents and the Council of the College for their strenuous and most successful work for the College, and also to Miss Alice Stewart Bryson (Secretary), Miss M. R. Angel, and Miss B. A. Bowering for the admirable way in which they have fulfilled their duties during the past year."

Dr. Fenwick said that no words of his were needed to commend this motion to the appreciation and acceptance of those present. He congratulated the Secretary on her re-appearance after her recent illness and said how much she had been missed during her enforced absence. It would be remembered that their accountant, Miss M. E. Wells had resigned last year to be married, and Miss Bowering had taken up this work admirably. Miss Angel's clerical help had also been most valuable.

Miss Bryson expressed her warm thanks for Dr. Fenwick's kind words of appreciation, and Mrs. Fenwick, supporting the Resolution, said that she exacted good service and was happy in receiving it. She emphasised the valuable work done by Miss Angel which so few took up, as an expert reader and corrector of proofs

New Members of the Council

The President then announced the names of the two Fellows appointed to serve on the Council for a period of three years—Miss Silvia Vian, Matron of the Royal United Hospital, Bath, and Miss Gladys Le Geyt for a second term of office.

Mrs. Fenwick then spoke of the loss the Council was sustaining in the retirement in rotation of Miss Bushby and Miss Cochrane, whose services had been of the utmost

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