

"An obstacle in the way of such a training scheme is that neither the General Nursing Council nor the Central Midwives Board would have exclusive powers to organise or control it. A separate authority for the training of midwives would be far less necessary if the midwife without nursing qualifications ceased to exist, while it would be advantageous to bring the new type of midwife into such closer relationship with trained nurses as a whole. It would therefore be necessary to reconsider the constitution and functions of the two supervisory bodies, and it might be found desirable to merge the duties and powers of both under one professional Council." In other words, the State Registered Nurse would be degraded to produce a hybrid who would be neither an efficient Nurse nor Midwife.

The Council strongly condemned such a proposal and will oppose it if it is again suggested.

The Council followed closely the progress of a Bill introduced by Sir Gerald Hurst, M.P., into the House of Commons to enable Local and County Authorities to provide Domiciliary Nursing Services. The Council inquired from Sir Gerald Hurst if the professional status of Registered Nurses would be protected in the provisions of the Bill, but in his reply the Hon. Member did not promise to support that principle. Captain Cunningham-Reid, D.F.C., M.P., who has consistently supported the Nurses' interests, however, has promised to do all he can to protect the professional status of Registered Nurses in connection with the Bill.

Among the many distinguished visitors who visited the College during the year were: Miss Lucie Odier; Mrs. Florence Whitaker-Smith, from London, Ontario; Miss Anna C. Jamme from San Francisco, the famous Editor of "The Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing"; Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary, International Council of Nurses; and Miss Annie W. Goodrich, R.N., Sc.D., M.A., Dean Emeritus of the Yale University School of Nursing, U.S.A.

Members of the College will feel gratified that two of our colleagues—Miss Priscilla Sanderson, Matron, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, received the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours; and in the Birthday Honours the M.B.E. was conferred on Miss Livingstone Charteris, Matron, Bedford County Hospital.

The College held a Reception on Monday, May 13th, in celebration of Florence Nightingale Thanksgiving Day, when there was a large attendance. The Nightingale treasures were on view, portraits, books, mementoes and a fine collection of letters. Miss A. M. Bushby presided and to listen to a lecture delivered by her, as Chairman of the History Section of the British College of Nurses, was indeed a liberal education in Nightingaleiana. Amongst the guests were the Florence Nightingale International Students' Class, 1934-1935, who listened to Miss Bushby with deep interest as it brought the personality of Miss Nightingale intimately to their knowledge.

During the year the Council has received many gifts, too numerous to mention, which have been recorded from time to time in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Notices concerning other matters of interest to the College will be found in the full Annual Report of the Council, of which this is an abstract.

(Signed) ETHEL G. FENWICK, *President*.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The one hundred and first Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, July 20th, 1935, at 39, Portland Place, London, W., at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss I. Macdonald, Vice-Presidents; Miss F. M. Campbell, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., and Miss S. H. Vian, Fellows.

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

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss H. G. Ballard, Miss J. C. Cowie and Miss E. F. Eburah.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

The following letter of thanks had been received from Dame Maria Gordon, D.Sc., D.Ph., J.P., on receiving congratulations from the Council on the Honour of D.B.E., conferred upon her by His Majesty the King:—

"I was very much pleased to receive the kind message of congratulations from the President and Council of the British College of Nurses. Your appreciative words in conveying the message brought back many thoughts when I have been listening to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and following the struggle that fell to her share before the British College was fully and firmly installed. I have the most cordial feelings towards your President, your Council and your College, and accept with warm thanks the letter and the very kind reference to the Honour given me, which has been inserted in your JOURNAL."

Letter of thanks from Miss B. West, M.B.C.N., Matron, Southgate Isolation Hospital, for congratulations sent from the Council on her receiving the King's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Letter from Miss E. D. Downs, Hon. Secretary, expressing the thanks of the Executive Committee of the County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association for the use of a room at the British College of Nurses in which to hold its meeting on Saturday, June 29th.

Letters from members acknowledging Benevolent Grants of £5 sent towards the expenses incurred in recent operations or illness.

Letter from Miss Nora Farrant that she would be pleased to stand for nomination for election to the Executive Committee of the affiliated societies of the National Council of Women of Great Britain.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Miss Grace M. Fairley, M.B.C.N., expressing warm appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the Council in sending her a copy of the Record of the King's Jubilee Speeches. "I am having it bound for the Library, and would like to take this opportunity of expressing my deep and sincere thanks."

Letter from Miss I. G. Kitton, F.B.C.N., expressing thanks and appreciation of the Annual Meeting and Reception held on July 6th:—

"I felt that I should like to write and say how very much I enjoyed the Annual Meeting. Though I have been a member of the College from the beginning, and have attended various lectures, I've never been able to attend a meeting of any description. I shall look forward to future visits.

"It sounds greedy, but I thought the tea delightful, everything was so dainty and everybody most friendly."

Letter from Miss May Smith, F.B.C.N., expressing thanks for congratulations sent from the Council on her appointment as Matron at Constance Road Institution, East Dulwich.

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