

## MATERNITY SERVICES.

The President called the attention of the Council to a pamphlet by Dame Janet Campbell, formerly Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare to the Ministry of Health, entitled "Maternity Services," discussing the question under nine headings, many of considerable interest, but under section "Condition of Training," Dame Janet Campbell proposes to sweep away at one fell swoop the distinctive professional status of the Registered Nurses, and to substitute a hybrid type of nurse midwife, to quote:—

"I suggest that the most satisfactory training for the midwife would include a foundation of general nursing (one or two years) on which could be based a two-year course in midwifery. The 'midwife' could then rank professionally with the general trained nurse, but would be far better prepared for her special work than if she had taken the C.M.B. certificate after an ordinary nursing training. And her prospects should be no less good than those of the general nurse.

"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, as has, for example, already been done under statute in Northern Ireland."

Thus Nursing as a highly skilled Profession constituted as Dame Janet Campbell's profession of Medicine is, by Act of Parliament, with its own Governing Body in control of educational and examination standards is to be degraded to produce a hybrid worker who would be neither an efficient nurse nor midwife. Presumably Dame Janet Campbell had not consulted the organisations of the 80,000 Registered Nurses before suggesting that in future they should cease to exist as a highly qualified profession.

So serious did the President consider these recurrent attacks upon the status and statutory privileges of Registered Nurses that she had invited Miss M. Breay, herself a Registered Nurse and Certified Midwife, to review the iconoclastic proposals of Dame Janet Campbell—a Report which was received with thanks, and it was agreed to publish it in "The Midwife" Supplement of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*.

The Council considered the suggestion to sweep away the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, without the consent of its electors, an outrageous proposal which would not be tolerated without the most strenuous opposition and publicity. It was agreed that the vicious intolerance of certain lay persons and individual members of the medical profession, to any degree of self determination for Registered Nurses, was a very serious danger to their professional and economic independence, and it was probable that a public protest would become necessary.

## THE NATIONAL PEACE BALLOT.

Documents addressed to the officials of the College by a certain section of the constituents of the Borough of St. Marylebone in regard to the National Peace Ballot, together with a ballot paper and open letter addressed to Captain Cunningham-Reid, D.F.C., M.P., representative in Parliament for St. Marylebone, inviting him to make a special appeal to all in his constituency to answer the questions, were received and considered.

It was agreed that the Ballot Paper be not filled in, and that a letter be addressed to Captain Cunningham-Reid,

M.P., objecting to any form of coercion upon the part of sections of his constituents in proffering any such advice.

The Borough campaign is being conducted by the St. Marylebone Council for the National Declaration on The League of Nations and Armaments.

Whilst warmly in favour of International amity and peace—the International Council of Nurses to which they all belonged having set an admirable example—the Council of the British College of Nurses approved the decision of the Government to advance security by the organisation of Defence.

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE THANKSGIVING DAY.

It was agreed to hold Florence Nightingale Thanksgiving Day on May 13th. The College would be open from 3.30 to 6 p.m.

It was agreed to have the Florence Nightingale treasures on view during the afternoon—Tea tickets to be 1s., and the donations received towards the Florence Nightingale Scholarships Fund be announced, and that the Collecting Box of the College be opened at 5.30—and the donations counted. Donations to be placed in the box at any time before May 13th.

The Meeting then terminated.

## DEATH TAKES TOLL.

News has been received of the deaths of one Fellow and one Member of the British College of Nurses, since the last Meeting of the Council.

## Miss Elizabeth Maie Lovatt.

Miss Elizabeth Maie Lovatt, M.B.C.N., since February, 1927, passed away on March 1st, after a long and painful illness born with courage and resignation. She was trained at the County Borough Fever Hospital, Halifax, from 1904–1906, and at the Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, from 1906–1909. Miss Lovatt was a Certified Midwife, and her professional career was spent in private nursing, in which branch her devoted services were greatly valued by her patients.

## Miss Emily Dinnie.

Miss Emily Dinnie, F.B.C.N. since January, 1927, passed away on March 8th, after a long illness sustained with fortitude. She was trained at the Preston and County of Lancaster Royal Infirmary from 1891–1895, and at the Clapham Maternity Hospital. Miss Dinnie was attached to the staff of the Kent Nursing Institution, West Malling, from 1895–1907, and was awarded good service medals in bronze and silver. She also received the silver medal awarded to nurses engaged in nursing victims of the Maidstone Typhoid epidemic 1897–1898.

Miss Dinnie left Maidstone in 1907, since which time she has lived and worked in Harrow. She was for many years a most active and generous member of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, a member of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, and a member of the National Union of Trained Nurses, and an ardent supporter of women's suffrage, a strenuous worker for the uplift of mankind.

Miss Dinnie took great delight in collecting interesting and valuable mementoes, which she presented from time to time to the History Section of the British College of Nurses.

Miss E. F. Eburah, M.B.C.N., member of the Council, represented the British College of Nurses at the funeral of Miss Dinnie. A service was held in the Scottish Presbyterian Church, Harrow, prior to the cremation at Golders Green. The many beautiful flowers sent were placed by her dying wish on the Harrow War Memorial. The wreath from the British College was composed of all the sweetest

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