

BIRTHDAY PARTY AND BIRTHDAY GIFTS.

The Birthday gathering on 7th December was as gay as usual and a large number of Members attended to show their goodwill to their Association; the large drawing rooms begin to seem small in comparison with the guests they have to accommodate on these occasions, but it is always a case of "the more the merrier" at 194, Queen's Gate, and the Club Members are splendid hostesses, ever ready to "forage" among the tea tables for those who are less well acquainted with their Club and its customs.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as Founder of the Association, cut the first piece of the large cake after all the blazing candles had burned down to their sockets and, in reply to a toast from the Members, made a beautiful speech indicating what the nurses of the present day owe to those who built up the Association and took the first bold steps towards the organisation of the profession. So many of them now have passed beyond the veil! She then spoke of the responsibilities and opportunities that lay with those who would carry on the work, saying that she regarded the Association as holding a place second to none, but that, if it is to continue to prosper, courage, sacrifice and vision are still required. She spoke much of the need for courage and all that it can achieve when used for the good of the whole; in fact courage might be said to have been made the text of her remarks. After according musical honours to the Founder, and the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem, everyone went downstairs to renew the business of selling "The Birthday Gifts" for the House Beautiful Fund; we thank all those who sent such generous gifts in order to beautify the headquarters of their Association.

The accounts of the Sale have not yet been audited, as we go to press, but we calculate that at least £70 will result from it when all cross payments have been completed; these, which are mostly involved with the house-keeping accounts, had to be held over until certain bills come forward and until the rush of Christmas is past; shortly we shall be able to give information as to the exact sum achieved as the Birthday Gift to the Association from its Members.

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE.

Those who have helped so generously with our Christmas scheme for giving sick and aged nurses comfort and happiness during the festive season will be glad to know that we have had even better results than last year. Over a hundred and thirty grants were made to those whose names are on our list (and many were collected into it during the past year) so that it is very satisfactory that we have been able to meet the added number. The majority of those who received gifts were not Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, but those whom we knew to be aged, ill and in narrow circumstances all received cheques. The letters received in reply overflow with gratitude to all those who have been so kind and encouraging about our Christmas scheme and in closing we will just pass on the message sent through us to them by one whom they have "not forgotten." It is the first quotation in our Stevenson calendar:—"May the blessing of God lift and rest upon ye," contained as already noted in a telegram read at our Dinner on Christmas Day. We feel sure that this message must add to the pleasure at this season of those who contributed to this Christmas Fund.

194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD
Secretary to the Corporation.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The one-hundred and sixty-third meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 20, Portland Place, London, W., on December 14th. The Chairman, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Correspondence.

The Chairman reported the receipt of a letter ratifying reciprocity between the Graduate Nurses of British Columbia and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The Chairman read the following letter from the British College of Nurses:—

The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place,
London, W.1.
December 1st, 1934.

To the Chairman and Members of the
General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

MADAM,—At a recent meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses the letter sent in reply to the Resolution adopted by my Council on September 22nd, inviting the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to consider the advisability of giving publicity to the results of the Final Examinations in the general press was read, and I was directed to convey to you the considered opinion of my Council:—

1. That the motion adopted by the General Nursing Council on October 26th, that a communication from a body of Registered Nurses should be "laid upon the table," is not only discourteous but inexpedient.
2. That my Council considers the expenditure of £300, if necessary, to give publicity to the results of the Final State Examinations would be justified taking into consideration the fact that Registered Nurses provide the whole cost, upwards of £20,000 a year expended by the Council in conducting Examinations.

My Council hope, therefore, that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will, in the future, adopt a more sympathetic conduct of business in dealing with communications received from Registered Nurses, and also that it will take into consideration the advisability of direct expenditure in support of the status of the members of the Nursing profession, thus following the established custom of a large number of educational bodies, including the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Council of Legal Education, the Law Society, the Royal College of Music, the various Universities, Colleges and Public Schools.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Secretary.

The Chairman reported that the Council wished to stand by the ruling made at a previous meeting.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sum of £25 for Insurance Stamps and £10 for petty cash, were allowed.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration on December 14th, 1934, were:—General Register, by reciprocity, 15; Supplementary Part of the Register for Fever Nurses, by examination, 15, by reciprocity, 1; Total 31.

It was agreed that 43 Nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their Retention Fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

Education and Examination.

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee, it was agreed that the Scheme of Affiliation between the Warwickshire King Edward VII. Memorial

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)