

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

The one hundred and tenth meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, May 16th, 1936, at 3 p.m.

The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the Chair, and there were present Miss M. Breay and Miss I. Macdonald (Vice-Presidents), Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss M. G. Allbutt (Fellows), and Miss E. F. Eburah and Miss H. Ballard (Members).

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

REGRETS FOR ABSENCE.

Regrets for absence were received from the following: Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Miss S. H. Vian, Miss J. C. Cowie, and Miss F. M. Campbell.

BUSINESS ARISING.

(a) The President read for the consideration of the Council the following Memorandum which had been drafted in accordance with the decision of the Council at its last meeting, that a Memorandum be presented, with a covering letter, to the Secretary of State for Scotland *re* "The Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee on the Training of Nurses":—

Memorandum

re THE REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE TRAINING OF NURSES, PRESENTED TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR GODFREY COLLINS, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.P. (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND), BY THE COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

At the meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, held on Saturday, April 18th, the Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee on the Training of Nurses was considered, and the Council desire to express to the Secretary of State for Scotland its views as to certain Recommendations in the Report which, if adopted, would, in its opinion, be prejudicial to the interests of Scottish Nurses.

The Council would welcome a comprehensive five years' course of training for nurses, but is strongly of the opinion that training in Sick Children's Nursing should not be left optional, *i.e.*, offered in the selective course of training, but that experience in this branch should be included in the three years' Course.

With regard to a selective Course of six months in Mental Nursing, the Council considers this period much too short to permit of adequate training in this very highly specialised branch of nursing.

Concerning the Recommendation to establish a Central Register which would, in effect, take precedence of the General Part of the Register, as well as of the Supplementary Parts, this, if adopted, would inflict a grave injustice on nurses who have been registered on the General Part of the Register after undergoing a comprehensive basic Course of training and successfully passing the prescribed tests.

The Council strongly objects to the Recommendation that there should be a Supplementary Tuberculosis Register, thus creating a sixth Supplementary Register, so increasing the variety of standards recognised and the number of specialists eligible for admission to the State Register.

The Council strongly dissents from the Recommendation that "in future the annual retention fee should be commuted into a lump sum, payable at the time of registration—and that instead of the Register being revised in its entirety annually it should be revised, say, once in five years, and only a supplementary list of new additions to the Register published in the intervening years."

The strong case for the payment of a small Annual Retention Fee was placed before the House of Commons when the Nurses' Registration Bills were under consideration, and its advocates proved its necessity if the Registers were to be kept up to date, and be of any use.

The Recommendation that the Register should be published every five years, instead of annually, would necessitate an amendment to the Rules framed under the Nurses' Registration

Act for Scotland, a proceeding which would certainly be strongly opposed, for, if carried, this would constitute a breach of faith with those nurses who have paid for Registration by the State on its undertaking that an Annual Register would be published. It would further render the Register—of which already only type-written copies are issued by the Council—quite useless for reference purposes, thus depriving both the nurses and the public of the benefits conferred by the Registration Act, for which the Nurses who pay the entire cost of administration, without any assistance from the State, worked so long and so strenuously.

The Council of the British College of Nurses ventures to hope that the above points may be taken into consideration by the Secretary of State for Scotland before giving his approval to the Recommendations of the Scottish Departmental Committee on the Training of Nurses.

39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

May 18th, 1936.

The Memorandum was approved and it was agreed that a copy be sent to Miss E. D. Smail, A.R.R.C., Lady Superintendent of Nurses, the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, a member of the Departmental Committee who had entered Reservations concerning the Recommendation to compile a Central State Register.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE STATUS OF SISTER TUTORS.

It was reported that a communication had been received from the Secretary of the Minister of Health in reply to a letter sent from the Council of the British College of Nurses, in which it expressed its support of the opinion of the League of Sister Tutors on the Resolution passed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales concerning Lecturers and Examiners for the State Examinations.

Letter from Miss C. E. Nelson, S.R.N., D.N., M.B.C.N. (Matron, St. Margaret's Hospital, Stratton, Wilts.), stating that she, Miss C. E. Lotherington, F.B.C.N. (Sister Tutor and Assistant Matron, Woolwich Memorial Hospital), and Miss M. D. Challenger, D.N. (Sister Tutor, Bethnal Green Hospital), had asked the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to receive a deputation from the League of Sister Tutors, who, in reply, were invited to attend the Education Committee of the General Nursing Council on Wednesday, May 6th, *re* the Sister Tutors' opinion concerning the New Scheme under consideration for Lecturers and Examiners for the State Examinations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Gift of "Nightingale Brick."

The President reported correspondence inviting the gift of a "Nightingale Brick" for incorporation, if possible, in the new Nurses' Home at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, at the laying of the Foundation Stone by Lady Kinnaid.

With the greatest pleasure it was agreed that the President should send a Brick for the purpose required.

A large number of communications were received, considered, and action taken thereon. From Miss G. E. Davies, Registrar, G.N.C., Captain A. S. Cunningham Reid, D.F.C., M.P., Miss B. M. West, Miss E. Hussey, Miss F. E. Farley, Miss L. Clark, Miss C. Harley, Miss E. St. Clair Davies, Miss C. C. Renwick, Miss M. Welch, Miss E. W. Littlejohn, from Mr. Please, sending thanks for expressions of sympathy on the death of his sister, Miss G. A. Please, Miss I. C. Goodbody, Mrs. Alexander thanks for congratulations on birth of her son, Miss A. Turner, Miss A. Chapman, Australia, Miss M. I. Willdon, South Africa, Miss E. E. Stephenson, Hankow, Miss J. C. Retson, Bulawayo.

Five letters asking for support of Resolutions to be submitted to the Conference of the National Council of Women at Southport.

Preliminary Agenda, N.C.W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)