

Hospital, Strand, W.C.2, and from Miss C. E. Nelson, Member, Matron, St. Margaret's Hospital, Stratton, Wilts.

As no other Nominations in order for election to the Council had been received, there would be no Election, and it remained for the Council to confirm the Nominations.

The Nominations of Miss A. M. Bushby and Miss M. S. Cochrane were unanimously approved to represent the Fellows, and the Nomination of Miss C. E. Nelson was unanimously approved to represent the Members.

The three new Members of the Council take office in July.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.—*Royal Mementos*. Portrait of the Lord Viscount Melbourne, First Lord of the Treasury, etc., etc. (engraved by C. Turner, A.R.A., from the painting by George Hayter, Esq., M.A., S.L.), Premier at the Accession of Queen Victoria. Prints, "The Wounded at Scutari." Statuette Group of Miss Nightingale (in the possession of Mrs. Bracebridge).

Mr. James Falcke.—Print of Mrs. Trimmer.

Miss Mary Harvey.—"Jock, King George's Pony," by Rowland Johns.

Mrs. Marden.—Flowers.

Miss Angel and Miss Bowering.—Flower vase and flowers.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.—"Infra-Red Irradiation," by William Beaumont, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; "History of St. Thomas's Hospital," Vol. III, by F. G. Parsons, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.S.A.; "The Woman Asks the Doctor," by Emil Novak, M.D., D.Sc.; "Pediatric Nursing," by John Zahorsky, M.D., F.A.C.P., assisted by Beryl E. Hamilton, R.N.; "Modern Professional Nursing," Vols. I, II, III and IV., by Douglas Hay Scott, M.B., Ch.B.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council should be held on Saturday, June 20th, at 2.30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS.

RE a Bill to Amend the Midwives Act, 1902 to 1926.

The President invited Miss M. Breay to read a letter for the consideration of the Council *re* "The Midwives Acts Amendment Bill," to be sent to the Minister of Health, submitting that if a County Association is subsidised by the State it should be a "County Midwives Association," and not "County Nursing Association," as midwives have legal status and a recognised standard of training, and such nursing qualifications as they possess are not necessarily those recognised by the State, as requisite for State Registered Nurses.

In this sense it was agreed that the following letter be sent to the Minister of Health:—

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES,
39, Portland Place, W.1.
May 18th, 1936.

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE. SIR KINGSLEY WOOD, P.C., M.P.,
MINISTER OF HEALTH.

SIR,—The Council of the British College of Nurses has noted with satisfaction that the Bill to amend the Midwives Acts now before the House of Commons in Section 6 (1) restricts, after a certain date, under penalty of a fine not exceeding £10, the attendance of any woman, for remuneration, on a woman in childbirth, or during the ten days immediately after childbirth, who is neither certified under the principal Act, nor registered under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919.

In regard to the recognition under the Act of the Voluntary Organisations as competent to carry out the provisions of the Act, the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, as pointed out in Committee by Sir Francis Fremantle being "the main centralisation of these voluntary organisations," the Council of the British College of Nurses desires to point out that this work, carried out by the Institute through the County Nursing Associations should be identified with midwives and not with nurses,

and the midwives recognised as working under County Midwives Associations.

Midwives have now an honourable legal status, and a recognised standard of training, and we venture to submit that if the village nurse midwives working under the Queen's Institute of District Nursing are recognised and subsidised by the State it should be because they are certified Midwives, their nursing qualifications being an unknown quantity.

We have high authority for knowing that the title County Nursing Associations was adopted when these bodies were formed because the objections of the medical profession to the Midwives Act had not died out, and had County Midwives Associations been suggested, there would have been strong opposition. That opposition has, however, now subsided.

We venture to submit that if the title County Midwives Association were substituted for County Nursing Association the position would be seen in its right perspective. The midwives would be recognised for the qualification they possess, and the State would not be giving a false value, and subsidising women as nurses, who have only a superficial knowledge of nursing, and who are not registered under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, an Act which you, Sir, did so much to guide through Parliament when it was before the House of Commons in 1919.

If this change of title were adopted as a condition of recognition, doctors and the public would not be misled as to their qualifications, and State Registered Nurses would not be superseded by unqualified practitioners.

My Council, therefore, respectfully hopes that you will move, or accept, an amendment in this sense to the Bill to amend the Midwives Acts now before a Committee of the House of Commons.

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

The Meeting then terminated.

OBLIGATION.

At the conclusion of the Meeting, Miss Miriam Violet Anderson, M.B.C.N., Kingston and District Hospital, took the Obligation and was welcomed by the Council, with whom she took tea.

FIXTURES.

The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, July 6th, at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, at 3.30 p.m., at which the President will take the chair.

AGENDA.

1. The Presentation of the Annual Report.
2. The Financial Report from the Treasurer.
3. The appointment of Auditors.

Reception and Tea at 4.30 p.m. All Fellows and Members are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Reception, and thus encourage the Council in its arduous work for their professional interests, and prove their sympathy with one another.

OBITUARY.

It is with the deepest regret that the Council have to report the death of Miss Florence Caroline Hargraves, F.B.C.N., on January 14th, a keen supporter of the College since its inception, and until her retirement a few years ago Secretary of the Tuberculosis Dispensary of the Royal Borough of Kensington; and of Miss Gertrude Amy Please, who was a faithful supporter of the College since 1926, and took the keenest interest in the progress of Nursing affairs. Her loyal kindly personality will be much missed by her colleagues.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"Goe and catch a falling starre."—*John Donne*.

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