

## THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Tenth Annual General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W., on July 6th, 1936, at 3.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair in her robes of office, supported by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Treasurer and Trustee, and the Councillors in their robes of office, and there was a large attendance of Fellows and Members evidently deeply interested in the proceedings.

The President called upon the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, to read the notice convening the Meeting; this having been done and Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

### THE TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The President then presented the Tenth Annual Report for 1935-1936, which contained a résumé of the enormous amount of work accomplished during the past year by the Council and Secretarial Staff for the benefit of the Members and incidentally for the Nursing Profession as a whole, of which the following is an abridged account:—

In presenting the Tenth Annual Report of the Council to the Annual Meeting of the British College of Nurses, the Council is glad to congratulate its Fellows and Members on their continued support of its policy of professional self-determination and, in consequence, the valuable work which it has been able to accomplish for the Profession of Nursing during the past year.

The high ethical standard maintained by the College should attract the progressive element of the Nursing Profession at home and abroad.

This year the Council will lose the very valuable services of Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss J. C. Cowie, Fellows; and Miss H. G. Ballard, Member. These ladies have served for three years and are Councillors for whose work their colleagues on the Council desire, in the name of the College, to express their sincere thanks and appreciation.

As only three nominations for election to the Council were received, there was no election, and the Council confirmed the nominations of Miss A. M. Bushby and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Matron, Charing Cross Hospital, Fellows; and Miss C. E. Nelson, D.N., Matron, St. Margaret's Hospital, Stratton, Wilts, Member, whose long experience as a Sister Tutor qualifies her to succeed Miss H. G. Ballard.

Fellows and Members at home and overseas have expressed their pleasure in receiving the College Diploma and their appreciation of the beauty of the design. The College Badge has been much appreciated. It can be obtained from the Secretary, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. The cost is 10s., which includes the engraving of the name and College number, and postage.

Warm appreciation has been expressed by many members of the College of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, of which for the last forty-three years Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has acted as Hon. Editor in collaboration with Miss Margaret Breay. This is welcomed because it indicates that its readers realise the vital importance of a free professional voice in the Press.

The Council of the College has been mainly concerned during the twelve months in consolidating its work in the following directions: The promoting of (1) efficient professional and civic education; (2) the economic security

of its Fellows and Members; (3) their legal protection; (4) social activities; (5) benevolent help; (6) the collection of historical data connected with the Nursing Profession.

The popularity of the Administration Classes continues. The Council, by the courtesy of the various authorities concerned, arranged for an Administration Class of some twelve Fellows and Members of the College, conducted by the Secretary, to visit:—The Priory Church and Headquarters of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell; the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster; and a course comprising three visits to the National Portrait Gallery, where on these occasions lectures were specially arranged for College Members on "The Marlboroughs," "The Stuarts in Exile," and "Some Famous Women."

A new departure giving much satisfaction in Educational Grants this year has been the awarding of grants of £6 6s. for a Refresher Course in Midwifery, and a grant to six Fellows and Members to attend a course of instruction in "First Aid in Chemical Warfare."

A large number of technical books have been added to the Lending Library, which continues to be much appreciated, and has been especially valuable to Fellows and Members when qualifying for the higher examinations.

The Section for other than scientific works has also attracted much interest; books of travel, biography and history, etc., being available, and especially works on the Life of Florence Nightingale.

It was with profound sorrow that the Council learnt of the death, after a short illness in July last, of Lord Amptill, the firm friend and champion of trained nurses during many years' struggle for State Registration of Trained Nurses, and to whose statesmanship and brilliant conduct of the Bill for their Registration, which passed the House of Lords in 1908, and later during the passage of the Government Nursing Acts in 1919 in the Upper House, their eventual success was largely due. He held a watching brief for the self-governing societies of Nurses in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and was associated in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, of which he was Chairman from its foundation in 1910.

At the Memorial Service held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Miss Margaret Breay, S.R.N., Vice-President of the British College of Nurses, attended, representing the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and a beautiful chaplet bearing the following inscription was sent from the British College of Nurses:—

"To the honoured memory of the Right Hon. the Lord Amptill, from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (President) and the British College of Nurses.

"In ever-grateful remembrance of his altruistic championship in the House of Lords of the plea of trained nurses for registration by the State. With sorrow."

The opening of the Winter Session of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, on November 1st, 1935. Following the usual custom of dealing with some question of educational value, the subject of great interest at the present time, "The Uplift of Mental Nursing" was chosen by the Council on this occasion. In an atmosphere of enthusiasm Fellows, Members and friends, including a group of Nightingale students, were received in the Council Chamber by the President and a number of past and present Councillors in their robes of office. After tea, which was served in the Secretary's Office, all adjourned to the Lecture Hall where the President took the Chair, and, in the regrettable absence of Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C. (Matron, Kent County Mental Hospital), who was to have presided, Miss I. Macdonald presented a brief digest, prepared by Miss Margaret Breay, of the Annual Report of the Board

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)