

THE RECEPTION.

The Reception held by the President and Council which followed the Meeting, was attended by Fellows, Members and friends of the College from many parts of the country, in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and keen purpose for the College welfare.

The beautiful floral decorations, largely the gifts of Mrs. Wates and Miss A. Macwilliam, were tastefully arranged by members of the clerical staff. In the Entrance Hall pink larkspur, lilies, sweetwilliam with beech leaves, and this year the Queen of flowers (the rose), held her sway in the Council Chamber, Bedford Fenwick Hall, and the Clubroom.

In the Secretary's office and Council Chamber tea was served, when cakes, ices, iced coffee, and raspberries and cream proved as delectable as ever.

So passed the Tenth Annual Meeting, marked by a splendid attendance, and never was the urge more realised, than in this happy gathering, that it is the responsibility of every individual member to rise and do her part to further the welfare of the College as a whole, and in so doing, support the best interests of the community in sickness and in health.

VISITS TO THE DYING, SICK AND BEREAVED.

Tread lightly—silence, solemn, sad and still,
Should sure surround this poor sufferer's bed ;
The hand of Death is near—relentless—chill—
One little hour his arrow will have sped.—
And see that other form is rack'd with pain
And fell'd by dire disease—once like a tree
In towering strength it loftily did reign,
Which struck by lightning, withered speedily :—
What tears are these of bitter bursting grief
Which flow in pearly drops from that young face ?
Oh can it be in life, so fair and brief,
The lines of sorrow leave so deep a trace ?
My friend—'twas sweet to kneel in blended love
And speak to such as these of hope above.

The greatest privilege the heart can know,
The greatest boon that heaven has given to man,
Is sympathy—how varied in its sphere !
How vast the fields whereon to practise love !
No child so young but feels its gentle power ;
No man so old but owns its influence still.
In all degrees of men, in every rank,
We watch it, as a spirit, glide along,
Laving the shipwrecked heart, and cheering on
The timid voyager thro' the sea of life.
Bend down to Love and kiss it, it is pure ;
Rise up and bow before it, 'tis sublime.

W. SHOBERL.

LEGACIES TO NURSES.

Mrs. Wills, wife of Walter Melville Wills (a director of the Imperial Tobacco Co.), Bristol, left £250 to Miss S. C. Mattick, Matron of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Mrs. Beatrice Stanley, of Bognor Regis, left £100 to Miss H. M. Doherty "in acknowledgment of her services to me in a very serious illness."

Mrs. Emeline M. Schram, of Chiswick, left £50 each to Nurse Burnham and Nurse Kemp, who attended on her sister ; and £10 to Nurse Peggy Macdonagh.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The one hundred and twelfth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W., on Saturday, July 18th, 1936 at 2.30 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 A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Fellows, Miss E. F. Eburah and Miss C. E. Nelson, D.N., Members.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

REGRETS FOR ABSENCE.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., and Miss G. Le Geyt. The President reported a letter which stated that owing to an accident (having fractured her arm) Miss F. M. Campbell would be unable to attend the Council Meeting. It was unanimously resolved that a message of sympathy from the Council be conveyed to Miss Campbell, with best wishes for a speedy recovery.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

Letter from Miss E. J. Haswell, F.B.C.N. enclosing a Report of the National Council of Women's Conference held at Southport on June 29th to July 3rd. It was proposed and carried unanimously that a letter of thanks be sent to Miss Haswell for attending as a representative of the College the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain held in Southport, and for her very interesting Report.

THE MIDWIVES BILL.

As directed at the last Meeting of the Council the following letter *re* the Midwives Bill was sent to Miss D. S. Coode, President of the College of Nursing.

The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, W.1,
22nd June, 1936.

DEAR MADAM,—At the Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses held on Saturday, June 20th, it was resolved that a letter be sent to you as President of the College of Nursing, to ascertain whether the College of Nursing is doing anything about the Midwives Bill, now before the House of Commons, and if it is taking any action to prevent the serious injury which must result to State Registered Nurses and to the sick, unless steps are taken to provide that if the Midwives employed by local authorities as whole time officers are also employed in general nursing duties they shall also be State Registered Nurses.

I remain, Yours sincerely,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Secretary.

The following reply was received from Miss F. G. Goodall, Secretary, The College of Nursing :—

The College of Nursing,
Henrietta Street,
Cavendish Square, W.1,
June 26th, 1936.

DEAR MISS STEWART BRYSON,—The President has asked me to reply to your letter of June 22nd. The Council of the College of Nursing has considered the Midwives Bill, and already sent their recommendations to the Minister of Health. Also our Parliamentary representative has attended all meetings of Committee (C) when amendments to the Bill were discussed.

With reference to the special point in your letter, it appears unlikely that many midwives appointed by local authorities would be undertaking general nursing duties also, as in the rural areas midwifery will be in the hands of voluntary associations, as at present. It also seems an injustice not to take into the scheme those at present practising. The Council of the College of Nursing has pressed throughout for further trainees for the Central Midwives Board examination to be already State Registered Nurses.

Yours truly,

FRANCES G. GOODALL,
Secretary.

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