

the Bishop of Southampton, Sir Burton Chadwick, and Dr. Watson Smith (past President of the British Medical Association) spoke.

The Bishop of Southampton said few thought of what became of the elderly nurses who gave of their best to help restore the sick to health. The remuneration they received was quite inadequate and their pension at 60 could not provide much comfort for their old age. Here was a fund starting to provide for the old and needy nurses, to house them in comfortable surroundings. The Bishop pleaded for support; £5,000 was needed before the building could start and another £15,000 was required for endowment.

Sir Burton Chadwick said there were about 60,000 nurses practising in Great Britain, at least 10 per cent. of whom would require help in their old age. Already there were four elderly nurses housed in four cottages at Winkton, near Christchurch, and the present scheme was to provide for another 24, and with a comparatively small extra expenditure for 36.

Dr. Watson Smith said he could think of no worthier object of support than the Elderly Nurses' National Home Fund. The idea had started in Bournemouth and the first home would be established there, but that he hoped would be the first of a series.

This fund will, we have no doubt, meet a need. The system of providing cottages for nurses is a most popular one—where privacy is possible. The John Howard Homes for Nurses, at Brighton, are arranged on the cottage plan and are eagerly sought after.

The following note from a nurse is of great interest :—
 "The 'trained nurse' is just beginning to evolve in Iran, and it is such fun to be on the inside track in helping it to evolve according to the ideals that have become so much a part of us in England and America. For something like 17 or 18 years our American Hospitals here in Iran, have been running little schools of nursing, and I expect the number of nurses turned out must be over fifty, but as you know, that isn't enough to build much tradition around. However, this year the Department of Education suddenly developed a keen interest in the education of nurses, and started three schools, one in Teheran, one in Tabriz, and one in Meshed. Their programme calls for the establishment of two additional schools next year in Southern Persia. We nurses are very much disappointed in the standards which have been set by the Government, but we realise that we must accept what has been given us and try to work up from there. This year the course of study is outlined as a two-year course to accept girls from the ninth class school. I hope that next year we can report improvement in the standards required. Excuse me for talking about what we are doing as though it were important. I just thought that you might possibly be interested in this little bit of contemporary history that is now being played."

Indeed we are all interested in the work of pioneers and quite agree it is stimulating to help to make nursing history. All success to the trained nurses of Iran.

We note that the question of the terrible conditions under which *post mortem* examinations often have to be carried out in the country are at last arousing the indignation of members of the Medical Profession. Not before time.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, November 21st, at 39, Portland Place, London, W., at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss M. Breay and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-Presidents; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss F. M. Campbell, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss G. Le Geyt, and Miss S. H. Vian, Fellows; Miss C. E. Nelson, D.N., and Miss D. de M. Warren, D.N., Members.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Fellow, and Miss E. F. Eburah, Member.

BUSINESS ARISING.

1. A letter received from Miss G. E. Davies, Registrar, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, stating that the Meeting referred to in her letter of August 4th will take place on Thursday, November 26th, at 2.30 p.m. By kind permission of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales it will be held at 20, Portland Place, W.1, and that invitations have been sent to the delegates whose names had been submitted by the College.

The President reminded those present that the two delegates appointed by the Council to attend were Miss M. Breay and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-Presidents, and proposed from the Chair that this Meeting of the Council instruct the delegates to oppose any proposal to institute a separate Register for the Nursing of the Chronic Sick. This was carried unanimously.

2. *Re Voluntary Sterilisation.*

As directed by the Council at its Meeting on October 24th, the following reply was sent to the Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., Joint Committee on Voluntary Sterilisation, 69, Eccleston Square, S.W.1 :—

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES,
 39, Portland Place, W.1.
 November 11th, 1936.

RE VOLUNTARY STERILISATION.

Dear Sir,—At a recent meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses your letters of September 21st and 23rd respectively were placed before it and considered. My Council, although warmly appreciating your kindness in giving it the opportunity of expressing its opinion in the movement for Voluntary Sterilisation, felt unable to take action in regard to it as opinion amongst its members is divided, although the Council feel sure many leading members of the College are supporting the movement for Voluntary Sterilisation.

I am, dear Sir,
 Yours faithfully,
 ALICE STEWART BRYSON, Secretary.

To the Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.,
 Joint Committee on Voluntary Sterilisation.

This letter has been acknowledged.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A correspondence which had taken place between Sir Harry G. Pritchard, Secretary, Association of Municipal Corporations, in which he pointed out that for some time past "Recruitment and training of nurses" had been receiving the consideration of a Joint Committee appointed by the County Councils' Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations, was presented. The correspondence included a report of the meeting at which, in accordance with the resolution of the Joint Committee representatives, they are carrying on negotiations with the Ministry of Health and other bodies and inviting repre-

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