

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The monthly Meeting of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, April 17th, 1937, 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, Vice-President; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Fellows, and Miss E. Eburah, Member.

### BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

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

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss F. M. Campbell, Miss S. H. Vian, Miss C. E. Nelson and Miss D. Warren.

### THE STATE REGISTERED NURSES' UNIFORM.

As directed by the Council at its meeting on Saturday, March 20th, the following letter was sent to the Secretary, The Midwives Institute:

The British College of Nurses,  
39, Portland Place, W.1,  
March 22nd, 1937.

DEAR MADAM,

Some of our members (Registered Nurses) who are employed as District Midwives in the country are not allowed to wear the State Registered Nurses' Uniform, and I am directed to inquire if you can give us any information concerning the matter.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
ALICE STEWART BRYSON,  
*Secretary.*

To Miss E. Simpson,  
The Midwives Institute.

The following reply was received:  
The Midwives Institute,  
57, Lower Belgrave Street, S.W.1.  
March 23rd, 1937.

DEAR MADAM,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, for which I thank you.

It is possible that the district midwives referred to in your letter are Queen's Nurses, in which case they must wear the Queen's Nurses' uniform. In other districts the Local Authorities themselves decide what is to be worn by their midwives; I have in mind one Local Authority who require their midwives to wear brown uniform with the County Council badge embroidered on it.

I trust this information is what you require.

Yours faithfully,  
(Mrs.) F. R. MITCHELL,  
*General and Organising Secretary.*

The Council directed that a reply be sent to the member making enquiries on this matter that the wearing of State Nurses' Uniform is not compulsory and the Council is of opinion that if the authorities employing midwives wish their employees to wear a certain uniform, General State Registered Nurses have no alternative but to comply with this regulation while employed by such authorities.

The Council, sympathising with the principle embodied in the member's point of view, suggests the Badge of the General Nursing Council might, under the circumstances, be worn with advantage.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

A NIGHTINGALE BRICK.

The President reported that she had received the following

letter from Miss Gwen N. Burbridge, Alfred Hospital, Victoria, Australia.

Godferhead,  
Loweswater, Cumberland.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,  
39, Portland Place, W.1.

DEAR MADAM,

I have just heard from Miss Baggallay, that you are willing to let me have one of the bricks from Miss Nightingale's house for the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. May I first of all thank you most sincerely—I cannot tell you how delighted I am. It seems almost too good to be true that such a link with Miss Nightingale should be available, and I need not tell you that it will be a most treasured possession of the hospital.

The Alfred Hospital is one of the main general training schools in Victoria (Australia) and Matron Miss G. M. Wilson, C.B.E., R.R.C., has done, and is doing a great deal for nurses—particularly in regard to post-graduate study. The hospital has recently received a large financial grant and plans are in hand for extensions to Nurses' Home, and remodelling of the original (1880) buildings.

It is rather an interesting coincidence that when the plans of this part of the hospital were submitted, the successful architect had chosen as his *nom de plume* the name "Florence Nightingale." The remodelled buildings will have an even closer link in the possession of a brick from her house.

I return to London next week (Tuesday) and hope that I may then, at your convenience, collect this most precious treasure.

Again, with most sincere thanks to you on behalf of the nurses of the Alfred Hospital (Matron will write to you, herself).

Yours sincerely,  
(Miss) GWEN N. BURBRIDGE.

The Council unanimously expressed its pleasure that a Nightingale Brick should be sent to Miss Burbridge for the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne—one already having been requisitioned for the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

A large number of letters were considered and replies agreed.

It was directed that a warm note of thanks be sent to Miss E. J. and Miss A. Haswell for their generous gift of £5 towards the College Hospitality Congress Fund.

Letter from Miss M. C. Murray that she has retired from her post of Matron of Polmont Institution after 14 years' work, and deploring that so far she had not been replaced as a woman is not wanted, and who she considers is much more understanding, and manages difficult youths better than male officials. With this point of view the Council were entirely in sympathy, and felt the retirement of Miss Murray would be a serious loss to the type of youth sent to this Borstal institution, where her understanding of their needs had had such a wonderfully humanising influence.

Letter from Miss Pearl Morrison, stating that she had been appointed Superintendent of the General and Marine Hospital, Owen Sound, Ontario. Congratulations to be sent to Miss Morrison on her appointment, and regrets that she will not be able to attend the Congress.

Requests for benevolent assistance were unanimously recommended.

Notification from the National Council of Women that the Annual Meeting and Conference is to be held in Bournemouth from October 11th to 15th next.

Programme *re* International Women's Week to be held in Budapest in August, brought by Miss Georgie Bogyo. It was realised that owing to the forthcoming I.C.N. Congress in London in July, a visit to Budapest could not be entertained this year.

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