

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

Applications for Election were received and the applicants were elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented the financial statement for the month.

THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman, stated that she had nothing to report, as she had been much engaged with other work, but she had bought an English crystal Coronation jug which she presented to the College.

Miss Bushby expressed the hope that means would be forthcoming to purchase a very good copy of a picture of Miss Florence Nightingale.

The President warmly thanked Miss Bushby on behalf of the Council for her generosity.

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

The Secretary reported on the daily activities of the College.

DATE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING.

It was agreed to arrange for the Education Committee to be held on a date convenient to the Chairman, Miss Cochrane.

RECEPTION OF WELCOME BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The President reminded the Council that the whole establishment, by permission of the British College of Nurses, had been placed at the disposal of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain in which to hold an afternoon Reception of Welcome to members of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses on Sunday, July 11th. She expressed the hope that every effort would be made to assist the National Council in its organization of this function. Gifts of flowers would be specially welcome.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Miss M. Breay.—The Countess of Dufferin's Fund Fifty Years' Retrospect. India 1885—1935."

Miss H. Bryson.—"The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street."

The Misses A. and E. J. Haswell.—£5 donation to the B.C.N. Hospitality Fund.

Miss A. Macwilliam.—Flowers.

Miss J. Edgar.—Flowers.

Miss Bassett.—Flowers.

Miss E. L. Macaulay.—Very beautiful letter rack, made by patients at the Kent County Mental Hospital. Rum cake for tea.

Miss G. E. Davies, Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales.—A Copy of the Register of Nurses, 1937.

The Council desired that a letter of thanks be sent to Miss E. M. Musson, Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, for the gift of the Register, which was in almost daily use in the College.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Saturday, May 22nd, at 2.30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS.**Women's Pensions.**

The President drew the attention of the Council to the Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions (Voluntary Contribution) Bill now before Parliament, which had passed its second reading, and which in its provisions discriminates unfairly between men and women concerning income limit.

After some discussion it was agreed that a Resolution be sent to Captain A. S. Cunningham Reid, D.F.C., M.P., Member for St. Marylebone, to urge amendment of the Bill in this particular.

The meeting then terminated.

RESOLUTION.

The following Resolution has been sent to Captain Cunningham Reid, M.P. :—

"At the Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses held on Saturday, April 17th, 1937, it was unanimously agreed to call attention to the unfair discrimination between men and women in the provisions of the Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions (Voluntary Contributions) Bill, defining that the income limit for men shall be £400 per annum of which not more than £200 may be unearned, and for women £250 per annum of which not more than £125 may be unearned.

This Council is of the opinion that this unfair distinction perpetuates the erroneous preconception that women (especially spinsters of whom many are Registered Nurses) have no economic responsibility—when on the contrary many women have to contribute to the maintenance of, or entirely support some member, or members of their family.

The Council most earnestly hopes that an amendment to the Bill will be secured."

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING.

Miss Maud Millican writes from the Methodist Mission Hospital, Hunan, China :—

"We shall be thinking very specially of the King and Queen on May 12th, as it is also our Graduation Day for Nurses throughout China—it being of course also Florence Nightingale's birthday—so we shall rejoice with you in our own special way.

"We are very thrilled this year to have eight Graduates, five of whom obtained Honours. This is the largest number of Graduates we have had so far as we only began as a Training School for girl nurses just 3½ years ago. Then we had two male Graduates and two boys in training—now we have four men and women Graduates and 15 nurses in training—two of whom are boys—so we have made a good deal of progress since those days.

"We are specially pleased about this year's Graduates, as they had a very difficult time last year when, owing to political disturbances, the foreigners had to evacuate Yungchow and we were away four months. When we returned in the autumn we had about five months' lectures to cram into about three months before the Final Exams. The Nurses worked very hard and deserve their Honours, and we shall rejoice all the more with them on May 12th, when they receive their Diplomas.

"I wish the International Congress of Nurses had been next year, then I might have been home in time for it. I was at the last one in Brussels and Paris, just before I sailed back to China. I felt so inspired by all that I saw and heard there and realised, that, although I might be the only foreign nurse in a remote inland station away in China, yet I belonged to that fine body of women who were represented at the Congress. It made me feel that my job was more than worth while and that in the training of these Chinese boys and girls as good responsible nurses we are building the links in the great chain of Service which binds us together throughout the world.

"I pray that this Congress may be a time of great strengthening and refreshing to all who are able to attend—and shall be very interested to read all about the things that are done and the meetings which are held.

"I am sure the British Nurses will feel this to be their great opportunity of showing hospitality to their sisters in the Nursing Service across the seas. Nothing but the best will they mete out to them."

HOW TO PURCHASE YOUR CONGRESS TICKETS.

Tickets for the Congress are issued from the Registration Bureau at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, the office of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, through the Secretary, *pro tem*, by the Congress Arrangements Committee.

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