

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1936-37.

In presenting the Eleventh 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. 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 F. M. Campbell, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Fellows, and Miss E. F. Eburah, Member. As only one nomination for election to the Council was received, there was no Election, and the Council confirmed the nomination of Miss E. Brodie, Matron, Royal Mental Hospital, Glasgow, Fellow. As no other nominations for election to the Council had been received it remained for the Council to nominate one Fellow and one Member to serve on the Council, and Miss Dorothy G. Tilby, Fellow, Matron, Isolation Hospital, Waltham Abbey, and Miss Dorothy M. Dickinson, Member, Matron, St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Plaistow (Florence Nightingale Scholar of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, 1934-35, who passed with distinction in all subjects) were unanimously appointed as Councillors.

Much pleasure has been expressed by Fellows and Members at home and overseas on receiving the College Diploma; letters commenting on its beauty and the inspiration of the design of its Scroll, which includes the names of the Pioneers of Nursing, have been received from many recipients. The College Badge has also 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.

Numerous letters have been received in which Fellows and Members have expressed warm appreciation of the value of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, of which, for the last 44 years, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has acted as Hon. Editor in collaboration with Miss Margaret Breay. This is a great encouragement, because it indicates that its readers realise the vital importance of a free professional voice in the Press, as well as the onerous and valuable work accomplished for the Nursing Profession. During the past year, as the official organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, it has also rendered a signal service in the enormous amount of detailed information it has published in connection with the International Congress of Nurses to be held in London from July 19th-24th.

The Administration Classes continue to prove most attractive to Fellows and Members. The Council, by the courtesy of the various authorities concerned, arranged for a Class of some 12 Fellows and Members of the College, conducted by the Secretary to visit the Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital, East Grinstead; the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E.5; the new Medical College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Educational Grants, of late, have been less eagerly sought by Members. No applications for Midwifery Grants have been received from eligible candidates. One Grant was awarded towards the expenses of a Housekeeping Course. A Grant to six Fellows and Members, to enable them to attend a course of instruction in "First Aid in Chemical Warfare," was awarded.

During the past year a large number of technical books have been added to the Library, which have been most helpful to Fellows and Members qualifying for Examinations,

and anatomical charts which were lent for lecturing purposes have been greatly appreciated.

Fellows and Members assembled at the Opening Winter Session of the British College of Nurses held on November 3rd, at 39, Portland Place. The President, supported by members of the Council, wearing their Robes of Office, received the members and guests in the Council Chamber. After tea, which was served in the Secretary's office, all adjourned to the Lecture Hall, where the President was in the Chair, and the subject for discussion was the very topical and most important professional subject, The Nursing of the Chronic Sick. It was opened by a Fellow of the College, and an expert on the subject. At the conclusion of her Address, after enthusiastic applause, the President expressed warm thanks for the admirable manner in which the matter had been presented and pointed out that the establishment of a separate Register of an inferior grade of nurses would be a serious blow to the General Register, claiming that the Nursing of the Chronic Sick is general nursing, that they had a right to the highest standard of nursing possible, and it was the duty of the authorities to provide it.

The following Resolution was proposed from the Chair, and unanimously passed:—

"This Meeting of Members of the British College of Nurses, while warmly sympathising with the provision of the most efficient nursing care for the chronic sick, is of opinion that this desirable end cannot be attained by the institution of an inferior grade of State Registered Nurses. It therefore urges the Government to require such expenditure by Local Authorities as will ensure the provision of efficiently trained Registered Nurses for the poor, of the same standard of training as is defined as essential under the Nurses' Registration Act for nurses for the General Public."

This Resolution was widely distributed by the Council to the Minister of Health and his Medical Staff, the London County Council and their chief officers, and the Hospitals and Medical Services Committee, the General Medical Council, the British Medical Association, the Board of Education, and the National Council of Women of Great Britain.

At a Special Meeting, convened by Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., held on November 26th, 1936, in order to obtain the views of the Nursing Profession on the Nursing of the Chronic Sick, Miss M. Breay and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., attended as the delegates of the College, and successfully placed the College policy on the subject before a large representative meeting. It is gratifying to record that at the end of the discussion the following Resolution, proposed by Miss Cochrane, was carried unanimously: "That no Supplementary Part of the Register should be set up for nurses for the Chronic Sick."

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain held its Executive Meetings in the Council Chamber of the College on October 21st, 1936, and April 21st, 1937, and the Annual Meeting of the National Council was held in the Lecture Hall of the College on November 18th, 1936. Tea was served in the Council Chamber and the Secretary's office.

In preparation for the International Congress of Nurses to be held in London from July 18th to 24th, the Congress Arrangements Committee, I.C.N., held its meetings in the Council Chamber of the British College of Nurses on September 23rd, 1936, January 20th, February 24th and March 24th, 1937. The Reception and Hospitality Sub-Committee held its meetings in the Library of the College on April 2nd and May 21st, 1937.

Since January of this year the College has provided

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