

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Monthly Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, September 18th, 1937, 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 E. Brodie, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss D. G. Tilby, Fellows; and Miss C. E. Nelson and Miss D. M. Dickinson, Members.

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

Regrets for absence were received from Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss S. Vian and Miss D. de M. Warren.

On rising, the President, in expressing her great pleasure in welcoming the new members of the Council, said how glad they all were to see Miss Brodie back again as the representative of Scottish members, and Miss Tilby, representing Fever Nurses, and Miss Dickinson, Nightingale Scholar, and author, would, she felt sure, be able to give the Council expert advice.

The President explained that as the Council did not meet in July this year, owing to the extra work involved in the International Congress of Nurses which had taken place in that month, there was a tremendous amount of business to be dealt with.

BUSINESS ARISING.

In reply to congratulations sent from the President and Council of the British College of Nurses on the distinction conferred upon him by His Majesty the King in the Coronation Honours, the Right Hon. the Lord Addison, of Stallingborough, writes:

Peterley Farm,
Great Missenden.

July 1st, 1937.

DEAR MISS BRYSON,—I thank you and all your colleagues on the Council of the British College of Nurses for your kind message of congratulation and good will.

I well remember the circumstances to which you refer, and feel that together we did a good piece of work those days.

Sincerely yours,
ADDISON.

It will be remembered that Lord Addison was the Minister of Health in 1919, who, after our Registration Bill had been purposely talked out on the Report stage, promised a Government Bill to promote Registration of Nurses.

Letter from Miss A. A. Macwilliam, F.B.C.N., expressing her willingness to act as the representative of the College at the Annual Congress of the National Council of Women to be held at Bournemouth, October 11th to 15th, 1937.

Letters to the President from Miss A. H. (a) Expressing warm thanks for the second Benevolent Grant of £5 sent to her and stating that she is making slow progress, and that she can see to read large type.

That she has not yet recovered her sight, although the specialist gives her encouragement, stating that in time it will improve more and more.

Letter from Miss Elsie Hudson, F.B.C.N., expressing very grateful thanks to the Council for their kindness in granting her request for a Nightingale Brick, and sending the address of a friend who will take the brick out to Barbados. Miss Hudson also writes:—

"Miss McLoughlin sent me all the invitations which she had received and the programmes of the various events during the Nursing Congress, all of which were most interesting, and I am looking forward to reading the account in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It must have been a thrilling time, and I do hope that now those who worked so hard to make the Congress a success are able

to have some rest, for it meant really hard work for you all, though I know how everyone would forget that in rejoicing with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who had seen her dream of one international fellowship of nurses come true.

"No words of mine can express adequately my very deep appreciation of all she has done and is doing for our profession."

THE TEST EXAMINATION, G. N. C.

Letters from Miss G. E. Davies, Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

(a) *Re* rule for the setting up of the test examination for candidates to be held in November, 1937, approved by the Minister of Health.

(b) *Re* instructions concerning making application for entry form for the Preliminary and Final State Examinations.

Letter from Miss G. M. Poskitt, M.B.C.N., urgently requesting that the College will take steps to place before Hospital Boards suggestions of improved conditions for nurses in view of the shortage of suitable probationers, a burning question which must be faced. The Council discussed this very pressing need of suitable recruits for the Nursing Profession and agreed to bring the matter before the next meeting, and considers that it is a national economic question which sooner or later will have to be dealt with by the Government.

A letter from Miss H. McLoughlin, M.B.C.N., sending a copy of suggested scheme for entrants into Municipal Service for girls aged 16 to 18 years, to be employed in junior clerical posts in the Public Health Department in the various sections—to fill the gap between school leaving age and that of entering for training. Proposed by Mrs. A. A. Woodman, a representative of N.A.L.G.O.

Letter from Rev. J. W. Potter, F.R.H.S., Chairman, The Commemoration Gardens Trust, Ltd., sending description and photographs of Erlestoke Park, Wiltshire, furnished for the accommodation of 50 visitors at a time, a part of the grounds are being devoted to raising flowers to be sent to the sick, and particularly for the hospitals which stand in need of flowers. This season over 1,000 large boxes have been sent, particularly to the London hospitals, free of charge. So that the mansion may be used to capacity, it is suggested to initiate a country holiday centre for recognised nurses at work in voluntary hospitals, and that a fund be organised so as to provide a convalescent or holiday home, free of charge to them. The Council decided to consider details of the scheme as proposed.

General communications of a private nature from members reporting ill health and inability to work, and asking advice. Others desiring to sell their nursing homes. Helpful consideration to be given to these communications.

Letter from Miss D. Barlow, F.B.C.N., expressing thanks to the Council for its good wishes and reply, and stating that she is very satisfied with the start in her new project "Service Unlimited," which has far exceeded her expectations. The President explained that Miss Barlow had evolved an entirely original idea in the bureau over which she presided which was meeting an urgent need.

A letter from Miss E. Compton, enquiring as to the easiest way now to get State registered. She holds the certificate of training from the Manchester Royal Infirmary, 1910, but she did not register. She is about to take a new appointment under the Midwives Act and not being on the State Register "the salary will let me down £40." Referred to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Letters from:—

(a) Mrs. Cora E. M. Wilson, asking for a Nightingale Brick on behalf of U.S.A. nurses, does not ask for it as a gift, and states: "I am one of the U.S.A. nurses and we feel that our (your) Congress was worth crossing the ocean for. We owe you thanks and congratulations for all you

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