

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

The President presented a satisfactory Financial Statement for the month.

**REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.**

Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman of the History of Nursing Section, reported: That she had great pleasure in presenting to the College a very good photograph of East Wellow Church, a copy of which has been published in *The Times*, also in *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*. Miss Bushby also reported that she had been offered an excellent letter from Miss Nightingale's sister written during the period that Miss Nightingale was in the Crimea, also a copy of Miss Nightingale's letter giving an account of her work. These letters she is most anxious to purchase, and would be very grateful to anyone who could subscribe towards them.

**THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.**

The Secretary reported on the various activities of the College during the month. There had been thirty visitors, all of whom were interested in its work, and many requiring advice on nursing matters.

**THE DRAFT CHARTER OF THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.**

The President on opening the discussion on the question of the "Draft Charter for the Nursing Profession" issued by the Trades Union Congress General Council, reminded the Council that consideration of this question was referred from the last meeting, and the Charter published in *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* so that everyone might study and give it their serious consideration prior to this meeting.

Following a lengthy discussion in which every member present took part, the Meeting was almost unanimous in expressing the opinion that organisation on Trade Union lines might depreciate the Professional Status of Nurses; and that the highest ethics of Nursing could only be maintained by a high standard of service; but the Council realised that it is very necessary that Nurses should have personal liberty of action in this matter; the Council was therefore not prepared to take any public action of objection to the demands incorporated in the draft Charter, and agreed to hold a watching brief for the benefit of its members and await further developments.

It was inevitable that emanating from one Party the proposed Charter was of political significance.

**THE CONDITIONS AND RULES FOR PRIVATE NURSING CO-OPERATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE APPLICATION FORM ISSUED BY THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.**

The President stated that in placing before the meeting the proposals of the College of Nursing in this matter she would remind those present that owing to the very serious menace to the economic freedom of Private Nurses involved in the scheme, the subject had been referred from the last meeting so that members might study the proposals. After a serious discussion the Council was unanimous in its opinion that the questionnaire headed "The Conditions and Rules for Private Nursing Co-operations and Associations" together with the application form, was calculated to bring Private Nurses as a body under the jurisdiction of the College of Nursing, which was not responsible for their economic conditions, standards of education, or discipline, and in claiming this responsibility the College was assuming the authority of the General Nursing Council, which was in these particulars the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession.

A course of action in support of the liberty of the subject was adopted.

**LIST OF GIFTS.****ROYAL MEMENTOES SECTION.**

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.—Fine Baxter print in colour of Queen Victoria; Picture of Queen Victoria exquisitely embroidered in silk.

Miss A. S. Bryson.—Very fine gilded Coronation mug with portraits of the King and Queen (Crown Derby).

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.**

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Saturday, November 20th, at 2.30 p.m.

**OTHER BUSINESS. OBLIGATION.**

A Member attended and took the Obligation and was welcomed into the College by the Council with whom she took tea.

The Meeting then terminated.

**FIXTURES.**

November 20th.—Monthly Meeting of the Council, 2.30 p.m.

**LECTURE.**

A lecture on "Cholera" will be delivered by Mr. W. E. Cooke, F.R.C.S.I., on Tuesday, November 30th, 1937, at 8 p.m., illustrated by lantern slides. To be followed by light refreshments. Fellows and Members will be cordially welcome without further notice.

**THE OPENING WINTER SESSION.**

*"Economic Relations of Certified Midwives and Registered Nurses under the New Midwives Act."*

In spite of the prevalence of a disconcerting November fog, the President, supported by Members of the Council wearing their robes of office, welcomed, in the beautiful Council Chamber, some 60 Fellows and Members and their friends to the Opening Winter Session of the British College of Nurses, held on Wednesday, November 3rd, at 39, Portland Place, W.

Tea was served in the Council Room and Secretary's Office, where cheery fires and floral decorations of rich coloured autumn flowers gave warm cheer to the scene.

At 5 o'clock all assembled in the Bedford Fenwick Hall, where beautiful pink chrysanthemums (the gift of Miss Angel) were much admired.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and, on rising, explained that the Opening Winter Session this year had before it a very vital subject for discussion: "The Economic Relations of Certified Midwives and Registered Nurses under the new Midwives Act." Miss Margaret Breay, after careful study of the 1936 Midwives Act and the new Section B of the Rules of Training and Examination of the Central Midwives Board, had compiled a paper, in which she had set forth the anomalies resulting from the approval by the Minister of Health of the new Rules.

In calling upon Miss Isabel Macdonald, Councillor and Fellow of the College, to present the Paper, the President thought that Nurses should thoroughly understand what were their privileges and also their disabilities under the new Rules. She emphasised that under the 1936 Midwives Act only Nurses registered in the general part of the Register of Nurses required to be kept under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, would, after a certain date, be permitted to receive any remuneration for attending on women in childbirth unless they were Certified Midwives.

It would appear that the Central Midwives Board has taken power to define a curriculum and institute an examination for Maternity Nurses, with whom the Midwives' Acts do not empower them to deal, and it would seem that if their powers are to be extended to include disciplinary powers over State Registered Maternity Nurses, an amending Midwives' Act is necessary.

This anomalous situation has no doubt arisen from the fact that the General Nursing Councils have not defined a training for Maternity Nurses in their curricula, and the Central Midwives Board in this country has now done so; but the position, as at present existing, is full of difficulties.

We hope to publish Miss Breay's paper and the discussion arising therefrom in our next issue.

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