

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, November 20th, 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 G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss D. G. Tilby, Fellows, and Miss D. de M. Warren, Member.

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

Regrets for absence were received from Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss E. Brodie and Miss S. H. Vian.

Letter from Mrs. Gladys Stone, M.B.C.N., sending to the President and Council very sincere thanks and deep appreciation on receiving the delightful Royal Crown Derby Coronation Mug for her son, Peter McIvor Baldwin. "I was greatly moved at the kind thought which prompted such a charming gesture."

In reference to the Trades Union Draft Charter. A letter from Miss J. Niccol, A.R.R.C., F.B.C.N., Matron, Royal Infirmary, Dundee, stating "I am satisfied the policy of your Council is right," was received.

Letter from Mrs. N. F. Hennelly stating: "I am delighted to find that your Council has decided to grant the presentation of a 'Nightingale Brick' to the Fremantle Public Hospital, Western Australia, and shall feel it an honour to be the bearer of it."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss I. Macdonald, F.B.C.N., sending a gift of £25 from her Christmas Calendar Fund for Christmas Gifts.

The President stated that it was her very great pleasure to report a letter accompanied by a cheque from Miss Isabel Macdonald, whose wonderful generosity once again placed at the disposal of the College a gift of £25 from her Calendar Fund for Christmas Cheer.

She felt that in conveying very sincere thanks on behalf of herself and the Council she could not express how deeply they appreciated Miss Macdonald's unique work and kindness in this connection.

Letter from Miss B. Carden, Nursing Matron-in-Chief, Holloway Prison, N.7, stating that the dates mentioned in February will be quite convenient for a visit of the Administration Class, and would like to know which date as soon as possible.

Letters from:—(a) Miss C. Page, M.B.C.N., asking for information *re* list of charges for visiting nurses in the country. (b) Miss M. Wilmshurst in reply to enquiries on the subject.

Letter from Miss M. Ashton, M.B.C.N., North Perth, Western Australia, expressing thanks for the Nightingale Brick sent to the Perth Hospital, W. Australia, which had been on view, and that it is expected the Brick will be incorporated in the new extension of the Hospital. Miss Ashton's letter refers to many interesting problems in connection with the Nursing Profession.

Letter from Miss M. C. Ping, stating that she much enjoyed attending the Opening Winter Session and in reference to the Midwives Act, how gratifying it is that the British College of Nurses is taking an active interest in this important branch of Nursing (Maternity). Miss Ping criticises the apparent monopoly of the College of Nursing for entrance to obtain the Teacher's Diploma in Midwifery—and asks, "Is this another oversight of the General Nursing Council to allow one body to have so much power?"

Letter from National Council of Women sending list of Resolutions recently adopted by the Representative Council in Bournemouth.

Miss G. Davies, Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, giving list of centres where Preliminary and Final State Examinations will be held in February 1938.

Letter from Miss McLoughlin, stating:

"A member of my medical staff suggested to me that a better type of girl to enter the nursing profession may be obtained if one of the associations of nurses printed a booklet on the nursing profession giving the conditions of admission; service; hours of work; pay and prospects, etc. These booklets could be circulated to headmistresses of Girls' Secondary and High Schools.

"I am informed that the average headmistress has no information to impart to her pupils when she is approached on the subject of Nursing as a career.

"After careful consideration I felt this suggestion was worth bringing to the notice of the British College."

Several letters of a private nature were considered.

Re SHORTAGE OF NURSES.

It was reported that a letter was received from the Minister of Health acknowledging a communication sent from the Council concerning its request for representation on the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

The President reported that this Committee had now been formed and the Council unanimously deprecated the appointment of so large a proportion of individuals unversed in Nursing opinion. Various activities in connection with the Nurses' Trades Union movement were discussed, and the Council unanimously agreed that a speaker on the movement might be invited to attend to explain, without prejudice, the aims of the organization.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

Applications for Membership were received and all were elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory Financial Statement for the month.

REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

The President reported that Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman, had communicated her sincere regret that she was unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, and consequently there would be no report of the History Section.

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

The Secretary reported on the various daily activities of the College during the month.

TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR REGISTRATION DAY.

The President explained that on December 7th she would celebrate her Fifty Years Jubilee of Organisation for the Nursing Profession, and Miss M. Breay and Miss I. Macdonald together proposed to present an Address at the College on that date. It was agreed to combine Registration Day with this function, when Mrs. Fenwick would be happy to receive her friends, and supporters of her work for the Nursing Profession from 4—6 p.m.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Miss G. Le Geyt.—"Maternity and Post Operative Exercises," by Margaret Morris.

Miss J. T. Ruddy.—"First Aid to the Injured," translated from the German by Princess Christian.

Nursing Association, the Japanese Empire.—A copy of the special number, issued in commemoration of the late Miss Take Hagiwara, Superintendent of the Japanese Central Red Cross Hospital, Tokio, and President of the Nurses' Association of the Japanese Empire.

The President, in presenting the book sent from Tokio, emphasised the beauty of the letterpress and portraits of this great pioneer nurse, Miss Take Hagiwara, a personal friend for many years. It would be placed in the "Isle Stewart Bookcase" and greatly valued.

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