

REGISTRATION DAY.

The President thanked Miss Bushby for her Report and gifts to the Royal Mementoes Section, and Miss Nelson for her gift.

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

The Secretary reported on the daily activities of the College. There had been 36 visitors during the month.

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR FUND.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss I. Macdonald for compiling the Calendar, which this year is specially beautiful and interesting, and thus helping so many nurses to have a happy Christmas. Miss Macdonald replied that she thought about 190 nurses would benefit by a gift this year.

POST-MORTEMS: PROTEST TO MINISTRY.

The President reminded the Council that some years ago the College took active steps to bring to the notice of public bodies and others the deplorable condition of mortuaries and the condition under which post-mortems were conducted in many districts. They specially objected to male officials handling alone female bodies both before and after post-mortem—and conditions under which these arrangements were made. A limited amount of reform had been effected, but until the members of the medical profession who conducted the inquests and Coroners protested against present conditions, little improvement would be made.

She drew attention to the following paragraph, which had appeared in the Press:—

"Dr. Alfred J. Head, of Southdown House, Storrington, near Worthing, who protested at an inquest against the conditions under which post-mortems are carried out in rural parts of England, is to appeal to the County Council and probably to the Ministry of Health.

"At the inquest, Dr. Head said that he had to carry out a post-mortem in a small shed or lean-to of a house.

"The shed," he said, "was quite close to the road and we had great difficulty in preventing schoolchildren from looking in; when we had the door closed we had no light because there was no window. A butcher would not be allowed to slaughter cattle in such a place. There was no sanitation and no water. These conditions, he believed, applied all over England in the rural districts. He had practised in three counties and they were much the same.

"The Coroner, Mr. F. W. Butler, agreed that conditions were bad and appealed to the Press to give publicity to the matter."

It was agreed to support any action initiated by Dr. Head.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Miss E. Harrald.—"The Home Annual, 1936."

Miss N. S. Esplin.—"Madras Mission of the Church of Scotland" Centenary Souvenir Calendar.

THE DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Saturday, January 23rd, 1937, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

THE ADMINISTRATION CLASS.

Occupational Therapy.

A group of the Administration Class, by the kind permission of the authorities, visited the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, on November 12th. A report of this instructive visit will appear at an early date.

FIXTURES.

January 14th.—Administration Class. Visit to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex.

January 23rd.—Monthly Meeting of the Council, 2.30 p.m.

Registration Day was celebrated in 1936 on that fateful 19th of November on which in 1919 the Nurses' Registration Bill came back to the House of Commons with the Lords' amendments. If one of the amendments had been rejected, consideration of the Bill would have had to begin all over again. A tense moment indeed. Only those of us who waited and watched in both Houses, sometimes until two o'clock in the morning, after the 30 years' struggle and hope deferred, can realise the relief, when seated on the crimson benches we listened to the pronouncement in the Lords of those final words "Le Roy le veut." Tears of thankfulness and joy crept silently down pale cheeks—just one of the few purple moments we live but once in a lifetime. Many years have now passed since that wonderful day, and but few veterans remain to keep it in memory. The President of the British College of Nurses welcomed the faithful and their guests on Registration Day in the Bedford Fenwick Hall, amongst the latter Miss Nan Dorsey and a group of 14 of this year's "Nightingales." She introduced to the audience Miss Isabel Macdonald, who, she said, had discovered yet one more Royal Saint, the Holy Queen Elizabeth of Portugal, and on whose beautiful character and life she delivered a touching address.

After the lecture, which we reproduce in part, a very merry party assembled in the Council Chamber and Office for tea, where the lovely "Registration Cake" was the feature of the centre table. Flowers, holly, crackers, cards of good will notified the coming of Christmas, and the company was in the right spirit of amity when the President lighted the first of the 17 tapers, she also lighted one for Miss Breay, whose absence was deeply regretted. The "veterans" one after another, lighted a taper in turn, and the International Students were then invited to add lustre to the cake. Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, U.S.A., Great Britain, Norway, Siam, and many others graced the ceremony. The cake was then cut and evidently enjoyed and "Canada," with its well-known love of souvenirs, was by request presented with her taper, and her colleagues also took away these little mementoes of an historic occasion. It was delightful to welcome these earnest students from so many foreign lands and British Dominions who have the honour to be associated with the educational memorial to Florence Nightingale. We were assured that they all intended if possible to attend, and we hope take part, in the International Congress of Nurses in July.

Thus one more "Registration Day" has come and gone, when Bedford Fenwick, Isla Stewart, Richard Barnett, Lavinia Dock, Agnes Sniveley and others received affectionate recognition for the wonderful work they accomplished for the statutory education of nurses, which slowly but surely is raising nursing into a leading profession for women.

IMMORTAL LIGHTS.

And o'er the plain, where the dead age
Did its now silent warfare wage—
O'er that wide plain, now wrapt in gloom,
Where many a splendour finds its tomb,
Many spent fames and fallen might—
The one or two immortal lights
Rise slowly up into the sky
To shine there everlastingly,
Like stars over the bounding hill.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)