

Miss M. Breay for her instructive paper, in which points of vital concern to registered nurses were so ably presented.

Finally, a communication from the Minister of Health was received, stating that "The minister is not aware of any form of disciplinary jurisdiction which could be exercised by the Central Midwives Board in the case of a woman acting in the capacity of a maternity nurse whose name is not upon the Roll of Midwives." It is presumable, therefore, that the Midwives Board has no responsibility for the conduct of maternity nurses examined and certificated by it.

On Tuesday, December 7th, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's Jubilee in connection with her work for the organisation of the Nursing Profession was celebrated at 39, Portland Place, W., in the simplest and happiest manner possible. A crowded meeting of friends assembled to offer her an Address of Thanks for a half-century of work which had benefited nurses all over the world.

Miss Margaret Breay, whose life had been devoted to the service of her fellow-nurses, was in the Chair, and Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary and chief organiser of the Royal British Nurses' Association, read the Address with sympathetic enunciation.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Royal Corporation, sent a letter to Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on behalf of all the members, conveying their greetings and her own. A cablegram was read from Miss Effie Taylor, President of the International Council of Nurses, sending "Greetings, congratulations, and kind personal regards." Showers of golden telegrams and letters of affection and congratulation were read, and a profusion of lovely flowers decorated the rooms.

After the presentation of flowers and personal congratulations, the Registration Cake, surrounded by eighteen candles, which were lighted by pioneers, was enjoyed.

Miss Florence Maude Campbell (a Fellow of the College), Matron, South Eastern Hospital, London, was returned unopposed to the General Nursing Council to represent Fever Nurses. The Council of the College conveyed its congratulations and expressed their sincere satisfaction that Miss Campbell had been elected.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain held its Executive Meetings in the Council Chamber of the British College of Nurses on October 29th, 1937, and April 21st, 1938, and its Annual Meeting was held at the College on November 24th, 1937. Tea was served by invitation of the President.

On Monday, November 15th, the League of Fever Nurses held its general meeting at the College. Tea was served in the Secretary's office.

During the year, the London County Council Nurses' Association have continued to hold their monthly meetings at the College, in the Library, at 8 p.m.

In accordance with the custom of the College, the Council sent Christmas cards with a covering letter of greeting to Fellows and Members in the Dominions and abroad. This year the Christmas card of their Majesties The King and Queen was chosen. Letters have been received expressing warm thanks and appreciation of this beautiful card, which many state they have framed, and hold this and all previous ones received as treasured mementoes.

In the History of Nursing Section many items of interest have been added during the year, and Miss A. M. Bushby, in her untiring zeal in connection with this branch, arranged a most valuable collection of Nightingale treasures, which was on view during the International Congress held in July, 1937, and which many International colleagues much admired when visiting the College.

The Council has carefully watched events calculated to affect the economic security of its Fellows and Members,

and have taken the necessary steps to safeguard this when it appeared that it might be prejudicially affected.

There have been a large number of requests from our members for help and advice concerning administrative and professional difficulties, and the Council is glad to record that invariably the College has been able to give valuable help in support of the members' professional status, and very satisfactory terminations of critical episodes were entirely due to the members acting upon the advice of the Council.

Relative to the very serious shortage of recruits for the Nursing Profession, in October, 1937, an Inter-Departmental Committee was appointed by the Minister of Health and the President of the Board of Education, to enquire into the recruitment, training, registration, terms and conditions of service of nurses.

Great dissatisfaction is felt that on the Inter-Departmental Committee the representatives of the Nurses' Organisations have been excluded, and in the opinion of the Council of the College this persistent denial of such representation to the organised rank and file concerning their own affairs by the Government and others is largely responsible for the necessity of an enquiry at all.

The Council communicated with the Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, on October 1st, 1937, and again on December 9th, 1937, requesting that the Minister would be good enough to consider its representation on the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

The Minister replied that after consideration he did not see his way clear at this stage to increase the number of members of the Committee.

Nightingale Bricks from No. 10, South Street, London, the last home of Florence Nightingale, O.M., from 1865 to 1910, are still sought and much prized. During the past year they have, by request, been presented to the following institutions:—Miss Mabel Hersey, of Canada, for presentation to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal; Miss M. Ashton, M.B.C.N., Perth Hospital, Western Australia; Miss A. E. Macdonald, President of the Nurses' Association for the Gordon Hospital, Plymouth, U.S.A.; Miss E. Hudson, F.B.C.N., for the New Nightingale Nurses' Home of the General Hospital, Barbados; Miss Gladys Stephenson, F.B.C.N., Matron, Methodist General Hospital, Hankow, China; Mrs. N. F. Hennelly, for the Fremantle Public Hospital, Western Australia. All these have been gratefully acknowledged.

The Council views with grave concern the demolition of the one Portal Entrance to the Register of Nurses, as the result of the vote (including those of the nine nominated members) of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales at its meeting held on Friday, March 25th, by splitting the Preliminary Examination and thus dividing theory and practice in the teaching of nursing, and presumably recognising educational bodies apart from hospitals to give instruction in preparing for the Preliminary Examination.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of a Fellow, Miss Gertrude Anna Rogers, in December, 1937. From 1883 to 1912 she was Matron of the Leicester Royal Infirmary, where she received her training as a pupil in 1875, and in every way she was a strong supporter of Nursing reform and progress during her whole professional life.

The above is a much condensed abstract of the Annual Report of the Council presented at the Annual Meeting on July 4th, 1938.

(Signed) ETHEL G. FENWICK,  
President.

39, Portland Place, London, W.1.  
July 4th, 1938.

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