

of Nurses of Great Britain—is holding a meeting at Charing Cross Hospital, just too late for report. We shall hope next month to refer to its deliberations.

Are you going to have time at Christmas for a good quiet read? If this good fortune is to be yours may we advise you to secure "And—Tell of Time," by Laura Krey—that is if you enjoyed "Gone With the Wind" by another American authoress. These pictures of the aftermath of the American Civil War are history in its most impressive form.

Here is a picture of how Southerners in Texas passed the Christmas of 1872. "The Christmas of 1872 was the most cheerful since the war (1862 to 1865) and Lucina invited a good many guests to dinner that day. As she took her seat at the table, Matt was just bringing in the tureen of oyster stew for her to serve—stew rich with cream and full of the plump oysters Colonel Rutherford never failed to send out from Galveston every Christmas Eve. She glanced appraisingly down the long white cloth. There in front of Cavin was the huge turkey, its neck draped with hot, spicy sausages. In the middle of the table stood a golden chicken pie, delicately fluted around its edges; and, just back of the tureen, was a silver platter holding a large ham with a crisp, brown crust neatly marked off into diamonds punctuated by raisins and cloves. She leaned a little closer, to take a surreptitious sniff. Yes, Aunt Emmy had remembered to baste the big ham with Sherry. Satisfied, she sat back in her chair and smiled at her guests."

It is well to know that "the South" still enjoyed its oyster stew, its turkey and sausages, chicken pie and brown-crust ham at Christmas, in spite of bitter antagonism between North and South for generations to come.

#### THE UNITED NURSING SERVICES CLUB.

The Seventeenth Ordinary General Meeting of the United Nursing Services Club was held on November 15th at 34, Cavendish Square, London, W.1. Miss M. E. Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C., Chairman, presided, and the directors present were Miss M. Dempster, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss B. M. Millar and Miss H. G. Palins, O.B.E., R.R.C.

The Chairman announced that the shareholders had just held their meeting and the directors had passed the balance sheet which was considered excellent, showing a good profit taking into consideration the extra facilities the members now had, *i.e.*, extra bedrooms, extension to dining room and a bridge room, entailing, as the Chairman pointed out, increase in rent, rates and wages. The Club at the present moment is in a very satisfactory position, and it was suggested that if each subscriber introduced a new member it would be appreciated.

Miss Helen Mar then entertained the members, and tea was served. Lovely flowers decorated the Drawing Room, where, and throughout the Club, the æsthetic touch combined with comfort in all the arrangements prevailed, in the administration of which the untiring Secretary, Miss M. F. Steele, R.R.C., S.R.N., F.B.C.N., is to be congratulated, and for which the United Nursing Services Club is renowned.

## 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, November 19th, 1938, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair and there were present Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-President; Miss E. F. Brownsdon, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss M. M. Ingman, Miss D. G. Tilby, Fellows; and Miss D. M. Dickinson and Miss K. Fogarty, Members.

#### REGRETS FOR ABSENCE.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay, Miss E. Brodie and Miss C. E. Nelson.

#### BUSINESS ARISING.

A letter of thanks was received from Miss C. M. Courtenay, Matron, West London Hospital, Hammersmith.

Members of Council expressed the opinion that the new scheme promoted by the Committee and Matron of the West London Hospital for the preliminary education of student nurses would appear to have a successful future before it and deserved encouragement.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from a member stating that she cannot express her gratitude to the President and Council of the College for the most generous grant of £6, and for their kind sympathy—it was such a help. She has arrived at her case in Ireland, and thinks she will be very happy there. An Aunt in the family she is with, married into the Nightingale family.

Letter from Mrs. E. Wates, F.B.C.N., expressing warm thanks to the President and Council for the very kind message and sympathising with her husband in his serious accident.

Letter from a member who through ill health had to sell her beautiful Nursing Home at a great loss. She had applied for a Pension under the Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions (Voluntary Contributors) Act, 1937, but has been unsuccessful and asked for legal assistance. It was agreed to make enquiries into the matter.

Letter from a Matron member asking for help and advice in defending herself from unjust accusations and deprivation of office. Advice sent. The Secretary reported other cases of a like nature. Difficulties arising from inability to obtain adequate staff in small hospitals, causing disorganisation in routine duties, Matrons were unjustly blamed by Committees of men, who failed to realise the serious social disorganisation in establishments which they controlled.

Letter from Mr. G. S. Tew, concerning assistance to a young Bulgarian girl who wishes to study nursing in London. Reply sent.

Letter from the Clerk, Isolation Hospital, Wandle Valley, concerning a proposed scale of minimum salaries for Fever Nurses. Reply sent that the College had decided to wait for the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services before making any recommendations on the economic conditions of Nurses.

Letter from Miss K. Yeates, Branch Secretary, Australian Trained Nurses' Association, concerning shortage of nurses in Australia, and enclosing booklet on "Nurses' Award." It was reported that quite a number of Australian nurses were seeking professional work in England.

Letter from Miss M. G. Wilks, enquiring where a lady suffering from neurasthenia could be cared for in a private house. Addresses sent. Reply of thanks for helpful letter.

Letter from member of thanks for help, expressing the hope that she may eventually be so placed as to be able to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)