

subscribe to so noble an institution as the British College of Nurses.

Letter *re* a meeting in support of Air Raid Precautions.

Letter from St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance *re* "Forced marriages of African Girls." National Council of Women of Great Britain sending list of Resolutions adopted by the Representative Council in London, also Handbook, 1938-1939.

A NIGHTINGALE BRICK.

Letter from Miss E. E. Ward, F.B.C.N., Matron, Mildura Hospital, Australia, for the gift of a "Nightingale Brick" for the Mildura Hospital which was enlarged in 1935. Miss Ward writes: "Those of us who have followed the history of the Nursing Profession in our Empire must surely realise how much the College has done towards raising the standard of nursing and placing our profession in the place where it stands to-day. I consider it a great honour to be associated with the College." Miss Helen Wilson, trained at the Mildura Hospital, now in London, had called at the College on this matter and would convey the Brick to Mildura. The Council unanimously agreed to consent to Miss Ward's request, and at the close of the meeting Miss Wilson attended and received the "Nightingale Brick," and expressed herself proud to be the bearer, and would duly deliver the Brick to Miss Ward for incorporation in the Nurses' Home of the Mildura District Hospital, Mildura, Victoria, Australia.

The President read a letter which she had received from the Ministry of Health, Air Raid Precautions, concerning a scheme in which numerous women's organisations will assist in an evacuation scheme in connection with Air Raid Precautions, and inviting the co-operation of the British College of Nurses.

It was agreed to wait and see what status professional nursing would be accorded under the Government plans, so that members might be of real use, which they were all anxious to be.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

Applications for Fellowship were received, and applicants were elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented a satisfactory financial statement for the month.

REPORT OF THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman, reported that she had received two books, "Florence Nightingale's Letters to her Nurses" and "Is that Lamp Going Out?" by the author of "Where's Master?" given by Mrs. Hamilton Gibson. Miss Bushby expressed pleasure in presenting to the History Section "The Narrative of my Experiences as a Volunteer Nurse in the Franco German War of 1870-1," by Annie Thacker, with a sketch of her life by James M. Menzies, M.A.

Miss Bushby reported that she had been to an antique dealer to see a painted portrait which was not a genuine one of Miss Nightingale.

The President thanked Miss Bushby for her interesting Report and generous gifts.

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

The Secretary reported on the various activities of the College during the past month. Since the last Meeting of the Council 785 communications have been received and 853 sent out. There have been 27 visitors to the College.

THE REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee on Nursing was considered. The Committee was small and expert, and had had the advantage of Lord Alness as Chairman. The Council agreed that although its deductions were not new, they were in the main sound. The

Council endorsed the expression of opinion in reference to Assistant Nurses: "That the setting up of a lower grade of nurses would be a retrograde step. Such a step might, we recognise, be welcomed by institutions, but we doubt whether it is desirable from the point of view of nurses. As we see it, nurses obtained by the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919 recognition for which they had striven for twenty years. This Act marked the first step towards making nursing a homogeneous profession. We feel that the adoption of the suggestion to recognise assistant nurses might, even if an attempt were made to draw a distinction between them and nurses on the existing parts of the General Nursing Council Register, nullify many of the benefits obtained under the Act of 1919, would tend to lower the status of the profession, and would not be in the public interest. As it is, registered nurses complain of the competition of untrained or assistant nurses, and the formal recognition of assistant nurses might, we fear, have the effect of intensifying this competition."

The President advised members to buy and study the Report, and be ready to express a considered opinion on their own affairs, when the English Committee issued their Report which was due.

TO CONSIDER COLLEGE ARRANGEMENTS

In view of the removal of the College quarters within this month it was agreed that the holding of Registration Day might, with consent, be held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Headquarters in the form of a Tea Party, the formal address or lecture usually given to be omitted.

It was felt unanimously that the sequence of this historic celebration must not be omitted.

LIST OF GIFTS.

Mrs. E. Wates.—Flowers.

Miss M. Angel.—Flowers.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.—"Poverty and Population," by Richard Titmuss. "Exercises in the Bath," by T. R. Tonga. "Manual Massage and Movements," by Edith M. Prosser.

CHRISTMAS GIFT.

The President announced with very great pleasure that Miss Isabel Macdonald had again placed at the disposal of the College a gift of £25 from her Calendar Fund for Christmas Cheer.

It was impossible to express how greatly this generous gift was appreciated by those nurses who were far from affluent, which her unique talent and indefatigable labours made possible, and asked her to accept sincere thanks on behalf of herself and the Council.

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

It was agreed that as the next Meeting will be held in the new Headquarters of the College at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, that the date of the next Council Meeting be left for the President to decide, when the Council would be duly notified.

The Meeting then terminated.

NEW HEADQUARTERS.

Will those Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses who have not yet been officially informed, please note that on the termination of the lease of 39, Portland Place, W.1, early in January, the Headquarters will be removed to 19, Queen's Gate, South Kensington.

Lighting, heating, decorating and fitments need a little time, to say nothing of the removal of all our fine furniture and historic treasures, but difficulties are made to be overcome, and the managers of the British College of Nurses are the people to overcome them.

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