

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

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair and there were present: Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss E. Brodie, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss S. H. Vian, Fellows, and Miss D. M. Dickinson and Miss C. E. Nelson, Members.

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

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-Presidents, Miss D. G. Tilby and Miss D. de M. Warren.

### BUSINESS ARISING.

#### JURISDICTION OVER MATERNITY NURSES.

The following letter has been received from the Minister of Health:—

Ministry of Health.

MADAM,

I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of the 11th instant and to state 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.

I am, Madam,

Z. L. PUXLEY.

It is presumable, therefore, that the Midwives Board has no responsibility for the conduct of Maternity Nurses examined and certificated by it.

#### THE DANGERS OF TRAFFIC.

In reply to the letter sent from the Council on January 22nd, Mr. E. Rawden Smith, Public Relations Officer, The London Passenger Transport Board, has replied as follows:—

THE LONDON PASSENGER TRANSPORT BOARD,  
55, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.

DEAR MADAM,

#### SPEED OF BUSES,

I am directed to refer to your letter of January 22nd, addressed to Lord Ashfield, and to inform you that, with two exceptions, the instances to which you referred could not be connected with the Board in any way.

Miss Tilby's unfortunate accident was not caused through any fault of the Board or their servants. She alighted from a bus outside Waltham Abbey Isolation Hospital and crossed the road in front of the bus which was stationary, she was knocked down by a motor-car. The evidence shows, and indeed the facts set out in your letter make it clear, that there was no blame attached to the Board.

The case of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Gladys Blacklock was not reported to the Board, and consequently we cannot say anything about it.

You may, however, be sure that every measure is taken by the Board to ensure the safety of their passengers.

Yours faithfully,

E. RAWDEN SMITH,  
*Public Relations Officer.*

It was reported that a further letter had been received from Mr. E. Rawden Smith, asking that he might make an appointment.

THE LONDON PASSENGER TRANSPORT BOARD,  
55, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.1.  
*February 14th, 1938.*

DEAR MADAM,

Thank you for your letter of February 11th.

I understand that your President will be good enough to see me at some time, and I hope that you will also be

able to be present, as I should like the circumstances put clearly in front of you so that you may present them to the next meeting of your Council, if you will be so kind.

Yours faithfully,

E. RAWDEN SMITH,  
*Public Relations Officer.*

On the request of Mr. E. Rawden Smith the President had arranged for a personal interview at an early date as a special complaint had been made to the Board, owing to the speeding up of buses, whereby the public had often not time to board them without risk of accident.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### REPRESENTATION ON THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON NURSING SERVICES.

The following letter was received from Mr. W. A. B. Hamilton, Secretary, Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.  
*February 7th, 1938.*

DEAR MADAM,

As you are no doubt aware, the above Committee has been set up by the Minister of Health and the President of the Board of Education with the following terms of reference:

"To enquire into the arrangements at present in operation with regard to the recruitment, training, registration, and terms and conditions of service of persons engaged in nursing the sick, and to report whether any changes in those arrangements or any other measures are expedient for the purpose of maintaining an adequate service both for institutional and for domiciliary nursing."

I am now instructed by the Committee to ask whether you would be willing to assist them in their work by submitting a memorandum of evidence on any matters covered by the terms of reference in which you are interested. Perhaps I should add that it has been decided that School Nurses and Health Visitors are within the scope of the Committee's inquiries.

It you decide to submit a memorandum of evidence it would be a great convenience if I could have 40 copies of it.

It may of course prove desirable to request you later to amplify your memorandum by oral evidence, but in view of the considerable extent of the ground to be covered, it may be some time before the Committee can reach a decision on this point.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. B. HAMILTON.

After consideration it was unanimously agreed that as the British College of Nurses had been determinedly refused representation on the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, it must decline to submit evidence to a Committee on which the Profession of Nursing is so inadequately represented, to consider the educational and economic conditions of the Nursing Profession and to make recommendations to the Government.

#### THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL RECRUITING SCHEME.

The President drew the attention of the Council to the activity of the London County Council in its organisation of a new scheme in connection with recruiting nurses into the service of the London County Council, and reminded those present that although the L.C.C. had in its employment some eleven thousand hospital Nurses, there was not one Registered Nurse on its Hospital and Medical Services Committee, which deals with Nursing Affairs. It was proposed to approach the L.C.C. to reconsider its refusal to avail itself of expert nursing opinion on the Committee.

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