

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, March 19th, 1938.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-President, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss E. Brodie, Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss I. Macdonald, and Miss D. G. Tilby, Fellows.

Prayers having been read the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay, Miss S. H. Vian, Miss D. M. Dickinson, Miss C. E. Nelson, and Miss D. de M. Warren.

BUSINESS ARISING.

In accordance with the decision of the last Meeting of the Council, held on February 19th, the following letter was sent in reply to a communication received from Mr. W. A. B. Hamilton, Secretary, Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, asking the Council to submit a Memorandum of evidence on any matters covered by the terms of reference.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES,
39, Portland Place, W.1.

SIR,

22nd February, 1938.

I am directed to thank you for your letter of February 7th, inviting the British College of Nurses to submit a Memorandum for the consideration of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services which was considered by the Council at its Meeting on February 19th.

The Council came to the unanimous decision that as it had been refused representation on the Committee so largely composed of unprofessional persons, 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 Profession.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Secretary.

W. A. B. Hamilton, Esq.,

Secretary, Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.

THE ROUND TABLE COMMITTEE APPOINTED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE CRITICAL CONDITIONS AT PRESENT PREVAILING IN THE NURSING PROFESSION.

In connection with the subjects of Reference under consideration by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, replies that they will be pleased to serve on the Committee have been received from:—

1. *British College of Nurses*.—Miss I. Macdonald, Miss Vian, Miss Bushby.
2. *The Royal British Nurses' Association*.—Miss I. Hutton, Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss L. Cole.
3. *The Matrons' Council of Great Britain*.—Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., President.
4. *The Mental Hospitals Matrons' Association*.—Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., President.
5. *The Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association*.—Miss H. McLoughlin, President.
6. *The League of Fever Nurses*.—Miss W. P. Solomon, President.
7. *The League of Sister Tutors*.—Miss H. G. Ballard, President.
8. *The League of Private Nurses*.—Miss G. Blacklock.

It was agreed to consider the various memoranda available submitted to the Inter-Departmental Committee, with a view to considered and united action if necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Miss D. E. Bannon, Matron-in-Chief, Public Health Department, London County Council, in reply to a request for information concerning the new scheme being adopted for the recruitment of nurses by the L.C.C.

London County Council,
Public Health Department,
The County Hall.
5th March, 1938.

DEAR MISS STEWART BRYSON,—The Clerk of the Council has handed me your letter asking for details of the decision of the Hospitals and Medical Services Committee of the London County Council in connection with its new scheme for the recruitment of nurses. I take it that you are interested in the type of officer to be employed on this work and the nature of the duties.

The officer appointed, who will work in my branch of the Public Health Department, is already one of the senior members of the Council's nursing staff—her former grade being that of Assistant Superintendent of School Nurses. While seconded for recruitment she will be graded as Divisional Supervisor (one of four [all state registered nurses] in my branch). This officer has, in the past, been accustomed to speaking in girls' schools on the history of nursing and nursing as a career, etc., and in our opinion she is eminently suitable for that particular type of work. Her duties will include visits to schools in London and elsewhere, not only to give addresses on nursing, nursing training, nursing history and the Council's Nursing Service, but she will also be available to answer all questions relating to the latter by any individual pupils or their parents. It may be that, as the work develops, she will visit other organised centres—apart from schools—for the same purpose.

We hope thereby to counteract to some extent the very bad impression conveyed by the public press on the whole subject of nursing, as we feel sure it is in the vital interests of the profession that the changed conditions of service, of available facilities and other cognate matters which have developed during recent years should, if possible, be brought to the knowledge not only of potential candidates, but also to the parents and the general public.

With regard to many of the clerical duties which the new work will involve, a member of the administrative staff in the department of the Clerk of the Council will act as liaison officer for clerical purposes between the various departments of the Council which are concerned with nursing, *i.e.*, Mental Hospitals Department, Education Officer's Department and Public Health Department. The notification in the Press of the appointment of this officer, in connection with recruitment may, I think, have led to some misunderstanding generally. The details I have given in this letter will, I trust, correct any such misunderstanding if it existed.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

D. E. BANNON, *Matron-in-Chief,*
on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary,
The British College of Nurses.

Thanks had been sent to Miss Bannon for her courteous communication.

DANGERS OF TRAFFIC.

The President reported on her interview with Mr. E. Rawdon Smith, Public Relations Officer, London Passenger Transport Board, and submitted a brief résumé of the interview, which was filed for reference.

Concerning the "Speeding Up" of buses of which the Council had entered a protest, the following statement

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)