

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

COUNCIL MEETING.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Saturday, May 20th, 1939, 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 I. Macdonald, Miss M. M. Ingman and Miss E. F. Brownson, Fellows; Miss D. M. Dickinson and Miss C. E. Nelson, Members.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss E. Brodie, Miss D. G. Tilby and Miss K. Fogarty.

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

BUSINESS ARISING.

Re the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.—It was reported that:—

The following letters of acknowledgment to the letter and the Report of the Meeting of Protest, convened by the Royal British Nurses' Association, held at Caxton Hall, sent from the Council (reported at the last meeting), against the degradation of the status of Registered Nurses, as proposed in the Recommendations of the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, have been received from:—

- (a) The Minister of Health.
- (b) Sir Percy Harris, Bt., M.P., on behalf of Sir Archibald Sinclair, who states:—

"With reference to your letter of April 14th, addressed to Sir Archibald Sinclair, regarding the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, I am very much obliged for the information you have given us, and certainly the points you call our attention to will be raised if legislation is introduced by the Government."

- (c) C. C. Anderson, Esq., M.D., Secretary, British Medical Association, that the letter will be placed before the appropriate committee of the Association at its next meeting.

- (d) Sir William Davidson, M.P., "the points raised in the memorandum shall receive my careful consideration."

- (e) Lord Dawson of Penn.

- (f) Alfred Welpy, Esq., M.D., General Secretary, The Medical Practitioners' Union: "I shall read this with interest and hope to comment on it in an early issue of *The Medical World*."

- (g) Letter from the President to Mrs. Tate, M.P. for Frome, thanking her for her understanding speech which she delivered during the debate on the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services in the House of Commons in support of Registered Nurses' claim for justice.

- (h) Letter sent to Sir Ernest Graham Little, M.D., B.A., F.R.C.P., to plead that he would use his influence to prevent the disaster to the educational standards and legal status of Registered Nurses as proposed in the Recommendations of the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

- (i) Mr. Sydney Wilks, Personal Secretary to Mr. W. Rostron Duckworth, M.P. for Moss Side Division of Manchester, who writes:—

"Your recommendations and views have been carefully noted in conjunction with the Debate which took place in the House of Commons on April 18th, and I am to say that Mr. Duckworth is certainly not in favour of any relaxation of the registration regulations unless there are proper safeguards."

It was agreed that a letter expressing the serious concern

of the Council, be sent to the Earl of Athlone, Chairman of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters received from two Matrons who considered they had been unjustly treated by governing authorities, and asking for advice. Cases had been carefully considered with documents, and advice given, which had been acted upon. Result awaited.

Letters exposing methods of enlisting the laity for emergency service—with a view to obtaining "a good job" after the war. Also from Miss I. A. D., in which she writes: "Some of us have been attached to the British Red Cross Society for some time, have been busy training as (we thought) useful V.A.D.s for a National Emergency, are feeling very troubled in case we are assisting our own downfall. We have stopped anyone hitherto wishing to use their knowledge for a private practice, but if the new grade is admitted to the Register we shall be powerless. May our loyal leaders have strength to carry on this fight for their hard won status." Miss D. enclosed £1 towards Nursing Standards Defence Fund.

Letter from Miss Villiers, Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, notifying that the National Council would make no appeal for a Nightingale Scholarship this year—as nurses had already so many commitments.

Letters from China, India, Newfoundland.

Letter from Miss C. R. Clark, Dominion Secretary, New Zealand Registered Nurses' Association, announcing that the Association is holding its Annual Conference during New Zealand Centenary Year at Wellington, February 13th to 16th, 1940. An invitation is extended to members of the College. Arrangements have been made concerning travelling arrangements with Thos. Cook and Son. The Secretary, B.C.N., to give further information if required.

Letter from N. C. W., explaining new scheme of representation—to which the Council agreed.

Letter from Miss J. C. Cowie, Glasgow, reporting that she had attended the Conference of the Women's Liberal Federation at Scarborough, when she spoke against the recommendations proposed on Nursing affairs. Miss Cowie was congratulated on her speech by Lady Sinclair and others present. It will be remembered that the Scottish Departmental Committee on Nursing Services decided against the Registration of Assistant Nurses.

Letter of thanks to be sent from the Council to Miss Cowie for her help during the crisis in nursing affairs.

Congratulations sent to Miss M. E. B. Clark upon the appreciation and recognition by the Ely District Nursing Association of her long and devoted public service for the sick.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

Applications for membership were received and all the applicants were elected.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The President presented the financial statement for the month.

THE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Education Committee was presented. There had been several Administration Classes which had proved as great a success as ever. Those attending appreciated sincerely the kindness with which they had been received and greatly valued the instruction given.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS.

It was agreed to recommend that Grants towards the expenses of the following be considered for the year 1939-1940:—

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