

## THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses was held at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, on July 4th, 1939, at 3.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair in her Robes of office, supported by the Councillors, and there was a large attendance.

The President called upon the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, to read the notice convening the meeting. This having been done and Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

### THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The President then presented the Thirteenth Annual Report for 1938-1939, which showed a great amount of work accomplished by the Council during the past year.

That the Report be received was proposed by Miss E. Armstrong, seconded by Miss D. de M. Warren, D.N., and carried.

It was agreed unanimously that a message be sent to Miss Margaret Breay, expressing warm gratitude for all she had done for the Nursing Profession for almost half a century, and the sympathy which the Fellows and Members felt for her in her trying illness, the cause of her unavoidable absence, so much regretted by everyone present.

In alluding to the continuous propaganda circulated by the Council in the House of Lords, the House of Commons, and to public bodies, concerning the dangerous recommendations proposed in the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services that untrained and semi-trained assistant nurses shall be recognised by the State, the President reported that they had received sympathetic letters from Members of both Houses of Parliament, expressing their intention to watch on behalf of the Registered Nurses' interests should the matter come up for consideration.

The meeting took strong exception to the fact that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales had conducted, *in camera*, momentous business in connection with this question, and were apparently prepared to sacrifice the interests of their electorate, the Registered Nurses, without discussion in open Council assembled.

Miss E. Dickinson then proposed that the Report be adopted. This was seconded by Miss H. McLoughlin, and carried unanimously.

### THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

The President stated that it was with great regret that the Treasurer, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, intimated he was unable to be present, and, in his absence, presented the receipts and payments account for the year ended June 30th, 1939. The Report was adopted.

### APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

It was unanimously agreed that Messrs. Reeves, Gothard and Farries be reappointed auditors for the ensuing year.

Miss H. McLoughlin asked that very best wishes and gratitude of all present be conveyed to the Treasurer, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, for all he had done for the College. She felt sure everyone hoped he would soon be better, and could not say how much they regretted his absence. This was carried with acclamation.

### WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLORS.

The President, in welcoming the new Councillors, presented Miss A. M. Bushby, Fellow, with flowers, and spoke of her deep interest and great services to the College; and to Miss Martin, R.R.C., who had been a Fellow of the

College since its inception, she had great pleasure in presenting to her a bouquet of flowers.

It was regretted that the new Councillor representing the Members, Miss E. Hussey, was prevented from attending owing to absence on holiday.

Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., proposed a very warm vote of thanks to the President, not only for taking the Chair at this meeting, but for the strenuous work she had done on behalf of the nursing profession during the past year. This was carried with great enthusiasm.

The meeting then terminated.

### NEW BY-LAW.

#### INCREASE OF COUNCIL.

It was agreed:—

"That the Council of the College be increased by two Fellows and one Member, bringing the total number of Councillors to 15, so that all branches of nursing may be represented."

#### RESOLUTION.

That the following resolution be placed on the Minutes and circulated was proposed by Mrs. Barnet, seconded by Miss A. Brownlow, and carried unanimously:—

"That the Members of the British College of Nurses in Annual Meeting assembled on Tuesday, July 4th, 1939, desire to place on record their strong disapproval of the proposed amendment to the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, for the purpose of compiling a Statutory Roll of untrained and semi-trained nurses by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the governing body of efficiently trained nurses, registered after examination.

"Moreover, the Members of the British College of Nurses protest against the Headquarters in Portland Place which they have erected, and financed, being used for the organisation of a Roll (a Register) of untrained nurses, with whom they would thus become officially associated in the public mind to their professional and economic damage."

In the discussion on the Resolution many members present expressed themselves warmly in its favour, expressing strong objection to their Headquarters being used to cover the organisation of untrained women at the expense of graduated Registered Nurses.

#### THE RECEPTION.

The Reception held by the President and Council which followed the meeting was attended by Fellows, Members and friends from many parts of the country keenly interested in the welfare of the College.

The beautiful floral decorations, largely the gift of Mrs. Wates, F.B.C.N., were tastefully arranged by members of the clerical staff. In the hall, pink larkspur, blue delphiniums, sweetpeas, and in the Council and Reception-rooms, lilies and roses, the queen of flowers, held their sway.

In the Reception-room, the Royal Mementoes there on view attracted great interest. As an overseas visitor remarked, Royal personages and great people in connection with them, came to life!—under the expert guidance of the President.

The History Section, on the second floor, proved a great attraction, where Miss A. M. Bushby explained much historical detail in nursing history to the enjoyment and instruction of members and visitors. In the suite of rooms on the ground floor tea was served, when cakes, ices, iced coffee, raspberries, strawberries and cream, were as delectable as ever.

So passed a very enjoyable Annual Meeting, and never was the urge more realised than in this happy gathering, that it is the responsibility of every individual member to rise to do her part to further the welfare of the College as a whole, and in so doing support the best interests of the community in sickness and in health.

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