

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1938-39.

In presenting the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Council to the Annual Meeting of the British College of Nurses, the Council is glad to congratulate its Fellows and Members on their continued support of its policy of professional self-determination in consequence of the valuable work it has been able to accomplish for the profession of nursing during the past year.

During the year the Council has met nine times and transacted a large amount of business, while Standing Sub-Committees have given considered attention to the various activities of the College. Owing to the extra work involved in preparing for the removal from 39, Portland Place and settling into 19, Queen's Gate during December, 1938, and January, 1939, the monthly meetings usually held in these two months were cancelled.

The high ethical standard maintained by the College should attract the progressive element of the Nursing Profession at home and abroad.

This year the Council will lose the very valuable services of Miss M. S. Cochrane and Miss I. Macdonald, Fellows, and Miss C. E. Nelson, Member.

As the nominations to the Council did not exceed the number of vacancies, there was no election, and the following ladies have been nominated to fill the vacancies: Miss Alice M. Bushby and Miss Elizabeth Martin, R.R.C., Matron, Wood Green and Southgate Hospital, London, N., Fellows, and Miss Edith Hussey, Sister, St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham Road, London, S.W., Member.

Fellows and Members at home and overseas on receiving the College Diploma have expressed their appreciation of the beauty and the inspiration of its design.

The College Badge has also been much appreciated and can be obtained from the Secretary, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, at the cost of 10s., which includes the engraving of the name and College number and postage.

Of its high ethical standard and its courageous campaign in the cause of Professional Freedom, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has inspired many expressions of gratitude and admiration from Fellows and Members at home and abroad.

During the past year THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as the official organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, has rendered a signal service concerning the detailed information published in connection with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

During the winter session of the past year the usual College activities were unavoidably interrupted owing to the tremendous task of the transference of our Headquarters at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

It is with great regret that we have to report the protracted and serious illness of Miss Margaret Breay, who continued until recently to take a very active part in the work of the College.

For 50 years Miss Breay has devoted her time and great literary talent with unsparing generosity to the cause of the Nursing Profession, and her enforced retirement is an irreparable loss not only to the College and the JOURNAL, but to the whole of the Nursing Profession.

The Council of the College has been mainly concerned during the twelve months in consolidating its work in the following directions:—

The promotion of—

- (1) Efficient professional and civic education.
- (2) The economic security of its Fellows and Members.
- (3) Their legal protection.
- (4) Social activities.
- (5) Benevolent help.

(6) The collection of historical data connected with the Nursing Profession.

Administration classes continue to be very popular with Fellows and Members, and through the courtesy of the authorities concerned the Council arranged for the Administration Classes conducted by the Secretary, to visit:—

(1) Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Hospital, Halton Camp, Bucks.

(2) The Guildhall, E.C.2.

(3) The Society for the Provision of Free Treatment for Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, 25, Stratford Road, W.8.

Educational Grants have been notified in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING during the past year.

Many technical books have been added to the Lending Library, which were specially appreciated by Fellows and Members qualifying for examination, many requests for the loan of books are from those at a distance who have received them by post.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain held its Executive Committee Meeting in the Council Chamber on October 17th, 1938, and a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Council Chamber on November 24th, 1938.

The Annual Meeting was held at the British College of Nurses on November 9th, 1938. Tea was served by the invitation of the President.

On Wednesday, November 16th, 1938, the League of Fever Nurses held its General Meeting at the College. Tea was served in the Secretary's Office.

During the year the London County Council Nurses' Association has held its meetings at the College, on October 11th and 25th, 1938, and March 8th, 1939.

It was agreed to repeat the College custom of sending Christmas Cards with a covering letter of greeting from the Council to Fellows and Members in the Dominions and abroad.

This year the beautiful Christmas Card of Her Majesty the Queen, of "Holyrood" was chosen.

Many letters of thanks and appreciation have been received from the recipients.

In the History Section many valuable items connected with the Nursing Profession have been added, and our History of Nursing Section continues to grow.

We are indebted to Miss A. M. Bushby, whose untiring efforts have once more helped to enrich this interesting collection.

Interesting treasures have been added to our beautiful collection of Royal Mementoes, including statuettes of Royal personages, prints, coins and porcelain.

The Council carefully watched events calculated to affect the economic security of its Fellows and Members and have taken the necessary steps to safeguard it when it appeared that this would be affected prejudicially.

The increase in the appeals received from Fellows and Members in responsible administrative positions for help is a matter of deep concern to the Council. During the past year they have been called upon to assist members subjected to harsh and arbitrary treatment by powerful bodies against whom our members would be powerless but for the steps taken by the Council in demanding the right of appeal for these members. In the opinion of the Council, the autocracy of public authorities, a growing menace, is an infringement upon our professional liberty, and members should do all in their power to convince Registered Nurses of the advisability of supporting this College, whose policy stands for the independence and just treatment of Registered Nurses.

March 30th, 1939, was a memorable occasion, when the new Headquarters of the College, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, were officially open to Fellows, Members and Friends for inspection.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)