

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, supported by the Councillors in their Robes of Office, welcomed a large number of Fellows and Members and Friends, who greatly admired the beautiful Council Chamber and Isla Stewart Memorial Library, and general approbation was expressed of the happy characteristic of the whole Headquarters, a sunny aspect throughout. A profusion of lovely flowers enhanced the beauty of rich coloured carpets, and treasured Chippendale and Sheraton furniture.

The History Section, on the second floor, where Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman, spent a strenuous afternoon explaining History in connection with an extensive collection on view of Nightingale letters, books, medals, etc., attracted a large audience *en route* to and from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Offices on the third floor.

During the proceedings a ceremony of gratitude was witnessed by a large audience.

The presentation of silver tea services to Miss M. R. Angel and Miss B. A. Bowering, in the Council Chamber, was made by the President, who expressed her desire to perform "a ceremony of gratitude" to her loyal and devoted helpers. In addressing Miss Angel, she expressed her warm thanks for 24 years of efficient and devoted service, for many in connection with THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and, pointing to the cabinet filled to capacity with over 80 volumes of the JOURNAL, said that in compiling this official organ, billions of letters had had to be passed by the human eye, and she wished to warmly thank Miss Angel for expert help in this connection, and hoped she would be spared for many years to continue it.

In presenting Miss Bowering with a silver tea service, the President thanked her for her long and loyal service of 22 years in the Nurses' cause, stating that Miss Bowering had in clerical work served in a variety of ways, for the Registered Nurses' Association, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and the British College of Nurses. The books she kept for the Registered Nurses' Association involved the handing over of some £120,000 to private nurses, and Mrs. Fenwick thanked her for excellent service. Miss Angel and Miss Bowering expressed grateful thanks for these beautiful gifts, which they would ever treasure.

During the afternoon the following telegram was sent to Dr. Bedford Fenwick, to whose interest the British College of Nurses owed its initiation:—

To Dr. Bedford Fenwick,

Delighted with the new Headquarters at 19, Queen's Gate, for which many thanks. Wishing you many years as our generous Treasurer.

From the Fellows and Members of  
the British College of Nurses.

Nightingale bricks from No. 10, South Street, London, the last home of Florence Nightingale, O.M., from 1865 to 1910, are still sought and much prized. During the past year a brick has by request been presented to Miss E. E. Ward, F.B.C.N., for incorporation in the Nurses' Home of Mildura District Hospital, Mildura, Victoria, Australia, by the request of the Matron.

Letters expressing deep appreciation of a tangible link so closely associated with Miss Nightingale have been received.

The Council has been actively engaged in giving wide publicity to the decision of the Council to oppose at all costs the degradation of Registered Nurses as proposed in the recommendation of the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services: That a roll of untrained and semi-trained women shall be recognised by the State. A letter appealing for justice for Registered Nurses was sent to the Prime Minister and all Members of the Cabinet, all Members of the House of Lords, the House of Commons, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Inter-Departmental Committee

on Nursing Services, the Earl of Athlone (Chairman), the Minister of Health and the President of the Board of Education, and to plead that they would strongly oppose any amendment to the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, which would involve this proposed breach of contract with Registered Nurses.

The President, accompanied by members of the College, was present in the House of Commons on April 18th, when the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services came up for discussion, and the Council communicated their thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Tate, Member of Parliament for Frome, who, during the discussion, was the only Member present who in her speech showed sympathetic understanding of the injurious Recommendations proposed, that a Roll of second-grade nurses, unable to pass an examination, be recognised by the State.

Perhaps the greatest blow to the confidence of the Nursing Profession, in their Governing Body, is the fact that at the Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, held on May 26th, a letter was reported as having been sent to the Minister of Health informing him that "The proposal that such a Roll be established in the manner suggested was noted and approved by the Council."

Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses are fortunate that they have had issued to them in the Editorial published in the June issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING a criticism of the Great Betrayal of their interests, by the General Nursing Council, a policy decided by it *in camera*.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the deaths of the following Fellows and Members, whose sincere interest in the work of the College has done much to establish it, and whose loss is deeply mourned:—

Mrs. Harold Lampard, R.R.C., S.R.N., Fellow, who died on July 27th, 1938, better known in the Nursing World as Miss Marion Welch, at the Royal Air Force Hospital, 1' Habbaniya, Iraq, at the early age of 49.

Miss Jean Singer Crombie, S.R.N., Member, who died on August 31st, 1938.

Mrs. Mary Forster Mein, S.R.N., Member, who died on October 26th, 1938, and who at the time of her death was receiving a College Pension.

Miss Annie Hughes, S.R.N., Fellow, who died in December, 1938.

Miss Myra Louise Taylor, Fellow, who died on January 18th, 1939. Miss Taylor was Nursing Superintendent, the General Hospital, St. John's, Newfoundland, and her passing after an operation was unexpected, and her loss much mourned by all who knew her.

(Signed) ETHEL G. FENWICK,

19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

President.

#### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses the contributions already subscribed towards the beautiful needlework cloth given by Miss E. L. Macaulay were increased by donations received from the Council to £2, and the cloth by ballot was awarded to Miss Elizabeth Helen Allan, M.B.C.N., Sister at St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, S.W.10.

The money has been added to the sum already in the Bank for a National Council of Nurses Scholarship, should one be subscribed for next year.

Our National Council has already subscribed for nine Scholarships at the cost of £2,250.

#### A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

Do thy duty of the day. Just now, the supreme public duty of all thinking men is to assert freedom. Go, where it is threatened, and say, "I am for it, and do not wish to live in the world a moment longer than it exists."  
—Emerson, January, 1861.

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