

so. Apart from these causes, I know of no reason why fully-trained nurses should be suffering from the lack of suitable posts.

Mr. Harvey asked the Minister whether his attention had been called to the extent of unemployment among trained hospital nurses since the outbreak of hostilities, while at the same time partially trained auxiliary nurses were receiving salaries for hospital work; and whether he was taking any steps to remedy the situation that had arisen.

Mr. Elliot: I have received representations to the effect that numbers of trained nurses are out of employment, owing to certain public health and other hospital authorities having dispensed with temporary nurses. I do not think the unemployment extends to the permanent staffs of hospitals, but in any case the responsibility for staffing rests with the hospital authorities concerned. No substantial number of nursing auxiliaries are undertaking hospital work, and I do not see that there are any steps which I can at present take in the matter.

How about the Ambulance Trains?

The usual staff is three trained nurses to 10 auxiliary nurses.

It is rumoured that 10 of these unused trains are to be put out of commission for the present, which will add to unemployment.

No improvement will be possible in nursing economics until the Minister of Health, and the Hospital Committee of the L.C.C., listen to reason, and guarantee the representation of the Nursing Profession on all bodies responsible for their employment, a principle conceded to the Medical Profession. We are pleased to note that Lord Horder, one of the King's physicians, is supporting Registered Nurses in their demand for justice. People in high places so often forget the "little people."

A few months ago, Miss Georgina F. Burnell, F.B.C.N., resigned the responsible post of Matron of the Plymouth Mental Hospital, Blackadon, where her devoted service for 18 years endeared her to a large circle of fellow workers and patients. Everyone connected with the hospital united to give expression to their regret upon her resignation, and showered beautiful and useful gifts upon her. Dr. Poynder, medical superintendent, presented a dinner service from the officers, a canteen of cutlery was the gift of the female staff, and the outside male staff gave meat dish covers, lemonade set and tray, fish servers, knives and forks, and kitchen utensils were other most useful gifts. Recently, Miss Burnell has been readjusting her life to that of a private person—no easy task—and has, in arranging her tasteful home, found a place for all the charming and useful gifts presented to her upon her retirement from public life. We wish her many years to enjoy her own home and happy memories.

The late Dr. Dorothy Marling, of Bark Place, Bayswater, understood friendship, and was inspired by gratitude; she left handsome legacies to her colleagues and £10 each to Miss Edgar and to Sisters Watts, Bedford and Spinner, of the General Hospital, Ramsgate.

Many nurses will be interested in the engagement of Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., to Lieut.-Colonel Cuthbert J. Thornhill, D.S.O.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Saturday, November 18th, 1939, at 2 p.m.

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. Martin, R.R.C.; Miss D. Tilby, Fellows; Miss K. Fogarty and Miss E. Hussey, Members.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, ex-Councillor, was present by special invitation.

Prayers having been read, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay, Miss E. Brodie, Miss D. M. Dickinson, Miss M. M. Ingman, and Miss E. F. Brownsdon, the majority of whom were too much engaged to attend meetings.

DEATH OF THE TREASURER.

The Council, standing, received the official report of the death of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, who had been a Trustee and Treasurer of the College since its foundation in 1926.

The President referred to the generous interest Dr. Fenwick had always taken for half a century in the organisation and self-government of the Nursing Profession. The profession had never had a more devoted friend. His passing was an irreparable loss to the British College of Nurses.

The Appointment of Treasurer.

The important question of a new Treasurer was discussed, also matters of finance, and the following Fellows were nominated to form the Finance Committee:—The President *ex-officio*; Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-President; Miss A. M. Bushby, and Miss Isabel Macdonald.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Nightingale Brick in South Africa.

A letter was received from Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., Vice-President, South African Trained Nurses' Association, informing the President that the architects of the new Chapel in the precincts of the Groote Schuur Hospital, at Cape Town, had promised to send a copy of the drawing of the inscription referring to the "Florence Nightingale" Brick placed in the Chapel.

A letter had been received from Messrs. Brownlee and Darroll, Chartered Architects of Cape Town, together with a copy of the drawing and inscription handsomely displayed as follows:—

**THIS BRICK FROM THE HOME OF FLORENCE
NIGHTINGALE
10, SOUTH STREET, LONDON,
WAS PRESENTED TO SOUTH AFRICA
BY THE FOUNDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF NURSES,
MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.**

From the drawing displayed on a blue ground, the inscription and mount is evidently very handsome, and a sheet of glass covers the Brick.

It was agreed to thank Miss Alexander for her courtesy, and the architects for the very interesting drawing, which would be placed in the History Section of the College.

Letter and Memorandum from Miss N. Heany.

The following letter and Memorandum addressed to the President from Miss N. Heany, Organising Secretary, London and District Nursing Association, was considered:—
MADAM,—Permit us to solicit your interest in favour of

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