

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, March 18th, 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 M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss M. M. Ingman, Miss I. Macdonald, Fellows; Miss C. E. Nelson, D.N., and Miss D. M. Dickinson, Members.

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

REGRETS FOR ABSENCE.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay, Miss E. Brodie, Miss D. G. Tilby, and Miss E. F. Brownsdon, Fellows; and Miss K. Fogarty, Member.

BUSINESS ARISING.

As directed by the Council, a letter had been sent to the Chairman of the Weymouth and District Hospital, Weymouth, calling his attention to the unfairness of making it compulsory when advertising for a Matron that she should be a member of any one nurses' organisation, which restricted applications for a public appointment from eligible candidates who disapproved of coercion.

The letter was acknowledged.

Letters received from a Matron who, acting on advice, had been received sympathetically by the Committee, by whom she considered herself unfairly treated and which admitted, after hearing her personally, that matters had not been placed before them correctly.

Further Press cuttings in connection with the enquiry at the County Hospital, Farnborough, which had now been completed. According to information in the Press, the result will not be known for some weeks.

As agreed at the last Meeting, a letter of sympathy and expressing admiration of her courageous stand for the status of the Nursing Profession was sent from the President and Council to Miss Brownlow, Matron, County Hospital, Farnborough.

Reply from Messrs. Maple & Co., expressing appreciation of the letter of thanks sent from the Council for the efficient manner in which this firm's staff conducted the removal of the College effects from Portland Place to Queen's Gate. The expression of satisfaction had been placed before the staff.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Note from the Treasurer expressing grateful thanks to the President and Council for their good wishes and the

beautiful bowl of flowers they have been so kind as to send on his 84th birthday.

A letter received from Miss G. E. Stephenson, F.B.C.N., Matron, Methodist General Hospital, Hankow, China, dated October 18th, 1938, delayed in post six months. Miss Stephenson writes:—

Dear Friends,

The day of Hankow's fall draws near, and communications are getting cut off everywhere, so I send out these two photographs now, hoping they will reach you.

We were obliged to evacuate from our hospital where work had been carried on for over 70 years, and the Bank of China offered us their building to use. They have vacated their premises as Japan depreciates China's currency whenever she comes and seeks to ruin her finances, so banks have to leave. The building is just within the proposed safety zone, so we hope that patients and staff will be unmolested. The city grows desolate, shops are closing, cars are all gone from the streets, much nightly activity of military forces, weary processions of soldiers passing through in the dark, etc., air raids come daily, or rather air raid alarms, as the bombing is mostly done all around us to smash all the communications around and keep us entirely isolated. We still await news of some of our missionaries who have been shut up in occupied cities for a long while.

Our wards are full of patients, and though many of the nurses have gone further inland to nurse the wounded, we have volunteers to aid us to keep going. We were fortunate enough to get this year's class of nurses safely through their exams last week. They had a class photograph taken and then Mr. Lui and myself had one taken together. It is 23 years since we started to work together. Mr. Lui was one of the first male graduate nurses to obtain the Diploma of the Nurses' Association of China,

and one of my very first pupils. He is now Vice-President of the Association and a member of the Government Committee on Nursing Affairs. He has now gone to an important post in the Red Cross Society's work, training workers. We all hope and long for an end to this unjust war, but it seems we have to live through a bad period first.

The city may fall in a few weeks, we are getting in stores and preparing for a siege. There was some rejoicing on Monday when the Chinese scored a victory, but it only held up the advance for a while I fear. We are fully at Peace in God's keeping.

Greetings to you all. G. E. STEPHENSON.



MISS GLADYS E. STEPHENSON, F.B.C.N.
MR. JAMES LUI, Vice-President, Nurses' Association of China.

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