

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1939-1940.

The Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the British College of Nurses was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, July 25th, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and was supported by Members of the Council in their robes, and there was a fair attendance of Fellows and Members.

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

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The President presented the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Council, which we print below, somewhat abridged.

In presenting the Annual Report for 1939-1940, it is deeply regretted that the normal activities of the College have, naturally, had to be curtailed owing to the serious war conditions which now prevail, but we have to congratulate ourselves that the College has remained open during the whole year, and that the business has been carefully conducted.

IRREPARABLE LOSS BY DEATH.

The College has sustained irreparable loss by the death of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Treasurer and Trustee of the College, who passed to his rest on Saturday, October 14th, 1939.

In this connection, never have a greater number of spontaneous tributes been written by nurses to the memory of any medical colleague. These letters, received by the President with heartfelt gratitude, will be kept as a lasting memory of the most generous medical friend the Nursing Profession has ever known, and will be preserved in the History Section of the College, the welfare of which he had so warmly at heart.

TRUST DEED OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND.

Owing to the death of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Treasurer and Joint Trustee with the donor, the Trust Deed of the Endowment Fund is under consideration before the appointment of new Trustees.

To facilitate business, the Council of the College, at its meeting on February 17th, 1940, appointed Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to the office of Treasurer. This appointment was reported to the solicitors of the remaining Trustee, who obtained her formal approval thereto.

In the passing of Miss Margaret Breay, S.R.N., S.C.M., Fellow and First Vice-President of the College, on Tuesday, December 19th, 1939, the Nursing Profession mourned the loss of a great and gifted colleague, who for over 50 years gave her devoted services to the sick, and rare journalistic ability to the cause of nursing.

During the year the Council has met six times—in July and December, 1939; and February, March, May and June, 1940. A large correspondence has been maintained with Fellows and Members, and much advice in connection with nursing conditions, necessitated by war, has been usefully available.

Letters from Fellows and Members in the Dominions have been greatly appreciated, as they all express the kindest interest in the work of the College and appreciation of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and, of course, the most sincere loyalty with the Mother Country in connection with the war.

RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

This year the Council will lose the very valuable services of Miss E. Brodie and Miss D. G. Tilby (Fellows), and Miss D. M. Dickinson (Member).

NEW MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

The following nominations for Election to the Council have been received from Miss A. Stewart Bryson and Miss E. J. Haswell (Fellows), and Miss H. G. Ballard, D.N. (Member), and are recommended for confirmation.

"THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

Of its high ethical standard and its courageous campaign in the cause of professional freedom and self-determination, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has inspired many expressions of gratitude from Fellows and Members at home and abroad; and it is apparent that its reception is deeply valued, and that it would be impossible to maintain active interest amongst members of the College without this medium which provides them with a free professional voice in the Press.

For the last 47 years, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has acted as Hon. Editor in collaboration with the late Miss Margaret Breay, the loss of whose journalistic genius is irreparable.

As the official organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, it has rendered signal service concerning detailed information published in connection with the International Council of Nurses and the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

NEW HEADQUARTERS.

During the past year we have pleasure in reporting that the new Headquarters, 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, have been found most convenient, each department being so organised that the routine business has been carried on with the least possible loss of time.

The Nurses' Club Room has remained open the whole year, and the only regret is that the many beautiful assets of china, etc., have had to be removed for safety during the ruthless threats of destruction by enemy aircraft.

SCOPE OF THE COLLEGE.

Much of this is quiescent. The Administration Classes, Educational Grants, and other popular activities, have had to be suspended owing to war conditions. Several members have received financial help from a private source. We have been able to take an active part in the organisation of the Canadian Polish Ambulance Unit, which promised a wide field of skilled usefulness in the care of the sick and wounded in France, reports of which have been inserted in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

THE LENDING LIBRARY.

The Lending Library is open for the use of Fellows and Members, to which many technical and other books of interest have been added during the past year.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held at this College on March 1st. The consideration of the draft Amended Constitution has been deferred for the time being, it having been reported that the draft propositions, if carried into effect, would necessitate a large increase of expenditure, which, at the present time, would be inadvisable.

Our delegates were pleased to learn that the Minister of Health has invited the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to appoint a delegate on to the Civil Nursing Reserve Advisory Council, of which Miss Florence Horsbrugh, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary), is Chairman.

At a meeting at which the invitation was received, there was only one nomination, that of Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., who is the Vice-President of the British College of Nurses, and for whose election our delegates voted with confidence and pleasure.

HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

Miss A. M. Bushby continues her interest in the History Section, although it has been somewhat in abeyance during

previous page

next page