

the year, but as this is one of the most valuable sections of the College, the Council will wish to offer thanks to Miss Bushby for carrying on work which is so valuable to present and future generations of nurses.

NIGHTINGALE BRICKS.

A Nightingale Brick from No. 10, South Street, London, the last home of Florence Nightingale, O.M., from 1865-1910, was presented to the Groote Schuur Hospital, at Cape Town, and has been placed in the precincts of the new chapel, with a very appreciative inscription. Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., Vice-President, South African Trained Nurses' Association, expressed appreciation of this historic gift.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPOINTMENT OF A NATURALISED ALIEN AS PRINCIPAL MATRON-IN-CHARGE.

When it became known, as announced in *The People*, that the London County Council had, upon the recommendation of the Hospitals and Medical Services Committee, without advertising the post, appointed a naturalised alien, of German-Swiss birth, as Principal Matron-in-Charge of its Nursing Service of upwards of 10,000 nurses in time of war, the President made further enquiries, and ultimately, upon the request of members of the College, sent a letter to the Chairman and Members of the London County Council, requesting them to re-consider this appointment, so that members of its Nursing Staff, especially those nursing British wounded, injured by German enemies, might be controlled by a British born Matron-in-Charge.

This communication was considered by the Civil Defence and General Purposes Committee, which recommended to the Council, at its meeting on June 25th last, that no action be taken.

A copy of this decision of the London County Council was forwarded to the President of the British College of Nurses and was considered by the Council on June 29th last, and a copy of the following resolution was sent to the Chairman and Members of the London County Council, who have determined to support naturalised alien rule of British nurses during war:—

RESOLUTION.

In reply to the statement presented by the Chairman of the Civil Defence and General Purposes Committee to the London County Council at its meeting on Tuesday, June 25th, 1940, the Council of the British College of Nurses desires to record that it received, with regret, the decision of the London County Council that no action would be taken on the appointment of a naturalised alien as Principal Matron-in-Charge of its Nursing Service, as it is unanimously of opinion that the Nursing Staff of the London County Council should be under the control of a British-born Matron, especially in time of war.

The statement made by the Chairman of the Civil Defence and General Purposes Committee that, "I think I am speaking for all members of that Committee when I say that they regard the agitation as unfair and detrimental to the public interest," was strongly deprecated.

The Council of the British College of Nurses takes exception to justifiable criticism in this matter being termed "agitation," and claims, without dispute, the right of the Nursing Profession to express its opinion on matters vitally affecting the status and treatment of nurses which would not only be injurious to them, but would be "unfair and detrimental to the public interest."

Moreover, the Council of the British College of Nurses claims such future liberty of action as may be necessary in the matter under discussion.

OBITUARY.

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

Miss Margaret Breay S.R.N., S.C.M., F.B.C.N.

Miss Annice Stuart Gray, R.R.C., S.R.N.
Miss Dorothy E. Bannon, C.B.E., S.R.N., Matron-in-Chief of the London County Council.
Miss M. E. Rowell, F.B.C.N.
Miss E. Madge Carruthers, F.B.C.N.

MISS MACDONALD'S CALENDAR FUND.

Owing to the generosity of Miss Isabel Macdonald, a number of the members of the College received a Christmas gift from the profit of her beautiful Calendar for 1940, "Candles." The sum generously given was £17.

It is impossible to express how greatly this handsome gift was appreciated by those nurses who are far from affluent, which her unique talent and indefatigable labours made possible.

GIFTS.

A Memorial to the memory of Miss Margaret Breay.

The very beautiful crucifix of ebony and silver (a real work of art) and the oak *prie-dieu*, belonging to Margaret Breay, have been secured as a small memorial to her by the British College of Nurses, and placed in the History Section of the College.

Thanks are due to those Fellows and Members who have so kindly sent lovely flowers to the College throughout the year; the name of Mrs. Emmie Wates must be specially mentioned in this connection.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Dean Effie Taylor, R.N., President of the International Council of Nurses, has kept in touch during the past year with the National Council of Nurses in the kindest manner. The office of the International Council of Nurses is now in New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.

The American Nurses' Association, elected hostess of the International Congress, has decided, after consultation with member associations, that the International Congress of Nurses cannot be held in 1941, and it has been deferred until a future date.

Thus, for the second time, the International Congress has been deferred in the United States owing to German aggression in Europe, proving that the Western Hemisphere cannot maintain its equilibrium when that of Europe is disturbed.

International finance is in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, the balance of income over expenditure to December, 1939, amounting to £3,859 19s. 8d.

The Report was adopted.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Treasurer presented the audited Receipts and Payments Account. Receipts had been £1,382 17s. 2d., and expenditure £1,099 11s. 11d., leaving a balance at Bank of £283 5s. 3d. The Treasurer congratulated the members on a surplus and sincerely thanked the Fellows and Members for their prompt payment of subscriptions which had entirely covered the greatly reduced expenditure during the past year in spite of the excessive rise in rates and taxes, gas, electric light, and other necessities. She hoped the routine work of the College would continue to be largely self-supporting in the coming year.

She added that the members owed a deep debt of gratitude to Miss A. S. Bryson for very valuable secretarial services in a voluntary capacity, also to Mrs. Jessop, Miss H. Hawkins and Miss Gooding for their voluntary service in connection with the clerical work of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Thanks were accorded with acclamation.

ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS.

The nominations of Miss Alice Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., R.F.N., F.B.C.N., and of Miss Emily J. Haswell, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., were received, and they were elected to fill the two vacancies on the Council to represent the Fellows; and the nomination of Miss H. G. Ballard, S.R.N., D.N.,

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