

Mr. Elliot has decided that the time has now come to transfer to the staff of this Department the executive work hitherto performed—and in the main completed—by the Central Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession, and to establish in its place a fresh body to be known as the Civil Nursing Reserve Advisory Council. The function of this Council will be to advise the Minister from time to time on questions of policy arising in relation to the organisation and work of the Reserve during the present war.

It is proposed that the new Council shall comprise representatives of the various bodies representing the nursing profession, employing authorities, and the voluntary societies, under the Chairmanship of Miss Horsbrugh, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, and I am accordingly to invite your Council to nominate a representative to be a member of the Council. In order that the membership of the Council may not be too large, the Minister has found it necessary to limit the representation of each of the nominating bodies to one member.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
Z. L. PUXLEY.

The Hon. Secretary,
National Council of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, W.1.

The Chairman called for nominations:—It was proposed by Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., that Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., be nominated. This was seconded by Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D.

The Chairman invited other nominations, but as none were forthcoming, she put the name of Miss Cochrane to the meeting and she was unanimously elected.

Miss Cochrane, in accepting election, thanked the Committee for appointing her, and said she would require its help and advice in connection with her work on the Advisory Council.

The Chairman congratulated the Council in having promoted the successful policy of securing the representation of Registered Nurses on Government Committees dealing with Nursing organisation.

The Chairman stated that Circular 1958, issued from the Ministry of Health, addressed to County Councils and County Borough Councils, announced the terms of the Minister's proposal for the organisation of the new Civil Nursing Reserve Advisory Council, and those interested in the matter should apply for a copy of this Circular to the Secretary, Civil Nursing Reserve, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.

The following letter was received from Miss M. Husband, President, Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, who was unable to be present:—

February 21st, 1940.

Dear Miss Villiers,

I am sorry I shall not be able to come to the Meeting of the Executive Committee to be held on Friday, March 1st, 1940, at 2.30 p.m., in London.

I am very glad that the Meeting has not yet taken place, as, some time ago at a Meeting in Edinburgh when the matter came up for discussion as to which bodies might be asked to appoint a representative for the Scottish Civil Nursing Reserve Advisory

Council, I suggested that the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain might be asked to appoint a representative for Scotland, and if you have had no communication from the Secretary of State for Scotland before the Meeting on March 1st, you might also consider having someone nominated for Scotland at the Meeting, in the hope that it will materialise.

Yours sincerely,
M. HUSBAND.

It was reported that no communication had been received on this matter from the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Several members present expressed the opinion that someone should be nominated as suggested by Miss Husband, but the Chair ruled that as the Committee had no mandate from the organisations affiliated to the National Council in Scotland, to take such action was out of order.

The matter would have to be further considered should there be any communication received from the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Several other communications were dealt with.

An American Tribute to the Memory of Miss Margaret Breay.

The Chairman reported the following letter, addressed to the Council, from Miss Mary M. Roberts, R.N., Editor of *The American Journal of Nursing*:—

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—

When the British JOURNAL (which I regularly read from cover to cover) recorded Dr. Bedford Fenwick's death, my heart went out to you. I did not write because I waited for the account of his great contribution to nursing which "should be written by another." I did not guess that the other was then lying in the valley of the shadow. I wanted to write with the better understanding of that potent contribution which Miss Breay could have given me and so many of your other friends.

To-day the January JOURNAL arrived. I am writing at once to thank you for giving us all the beautiful interpretation of Miss Breay's life which you alone have both the knowledge and the skill to write. "Incomparable devotion to duty." It was this quality which we, who saw her but rarely, have long perceived. That devotion was matched only, I feel very

sure, by her devotion in friendship and her devotion to her Faith.

For generations to come she will be blessed for the fidelity with which she recorded the history of nursing as she saw it unfold before her. She was fortunate in her observation tower, for from where she stood she could so clearly see the impact and influence of a creative and dynamic mind on those who surrounded and those who followed you.

Loneliness has come to you at a time when the world is already darkened by many sorrows, but I know that the shining armour of courage which you have so gallantly worn throughout your life will be yours until your labours, too, whatever there may yet remain to be done, shall be finished.

Once again I send you my admiring affection and with it my deepest sympathy.

Sincerely yours,
MARY M. ROBERTS, Editor.

It was agreed that Miss Roberts be thanked for her letter.



MISS MARY S. COCHRANE, R.R.C., S.R.N.
Representative of the National Council of Nurses
of Great Britain on the Civil Nursing Reserve
Advisory Council, Ministry of Health.

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