

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, May 4th, at 2.30 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 M. Ingman, Miss E. F. Brownsdon, Fellows; and Miss K. Fogarty and Miss E. Hussey, Members.

Prayers having been read by Miss Stewart Bryson, the Minutes of the last Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The regrets of several members for absence owing to stress of work were received.

A FRENCH HERO SALUTES.

Before considering the Agenda, the President reported that owing to so many expressions of admiration for the portrait, "A French Hero Salutes," which appeared in the March number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, she had had an enlarged edition of the portrait printed on card, copies of which are on sale at 6d., and through the post for 9d. from the office. Copies of this inspiring picture were on the table, and the members of Council present secured them with pleasure.

THE CANADIAN POLISH AMBULANCE UNIT.

The President made a brief reference to the organisation of the Canadian Polish Ambulance Unit by the Polish Relief Fund. The College had been a happy medium in helping in its organisation, and Sister Oakley Williams, F.B.C.N., had been selected as assistant in the nursing department to Miss Patt Tuckett, the Canadian Commandant. Polish infantry units were now in the Army zone in France, and would need all the help that England could supply. It had given her great satisfaction to associate the College with this urgent work for the brave and brilliant persecuted Poles.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A large number of letters were reported, and after consideration it was agreed to take action in support of requests from members.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

Applications for membership were received, and all the applicants elected with pleasure.

Five resignations were received with regret.

THE MARGARET BREAY MEMENTO FUND.

It was reported that 38 of Miss Breay's old friends had subscribed in payment of the *Prie-Dieu* which had been secured and placed in the History Section. As £6 5s. 10d. had been received, there remained £2 7s. 10d. towards the illuminated description and list of names of those who considered it a privilege to be associated with the Memento.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT.

An exhaustive Report of the business, finance and work of the College was presented by the President, carefully considered, and action agreed on various details.

It was realised that owing to excessive rates, enhanced cost of materials, stamps, telephones, heat, light, etc., economy would be necessary in conducting the business of the College. This policy had been in force since the inauguration of the war, and the Council appreciated the prompt payment of many subscriptions by Fellows and Members, and the valuable honorary work of Miss Stewart Bryson, now resident in the country, and other friends.

The meeting then terminated.

Tea was served in the Secretary's office, and nursing in War earnestly discussed.

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL.

The Notice of Election to the Council appears on the back cover page of this issue.

Two Fellows and one Member retire annually.

Nomination papers can be secured from the Secretary, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on and after May 17th, 1940, and must be returned to her by June 14th, 1940.

With sincere regret, the Council will this year lose the greatly valued services of Miss E. Brodie and Miss D. G. Tilby, Fellows, and of Miss D. M. Dickinson, Member, after three years' active service.

THE CANADIAN POLISH AMBULANCE UNIT.

"THE STAR WHOSE LIGHT WE FOLLOW."

The President, who works daily in the office at 19, Queen's Gate, where many of the activities of the College are in abeyance for the time being, realised that the interest of members scattered here, there and everywhere would be aroused in active work for the fighting forces of the Allies—so that when she was consulted on nursing details in the organisation of the Canadian Polish Ambulance Unit, her services were at its disposal with sincere pleasure, and in a few weeks the scheme materialised as set forth in our last issue, and the ambulance and its personnel are now in France.

No country ravaged by Germany in its lust for power has suffered more than Poland. Its brave people, murdered in batches and trampled in the dust, cry aloud for justice; and those of us whose ancestors drank "To the King over the water" have in memory the fact that the last legitimate uncrowned Stuart king, Henry IX, Cardinal of York, son of James III, had for his mother the lovely Polish Princess, Clementina Sobieska, granddaughter of John III, King of Poland, who, together with Charles Martel and Don John of Austria, formed the last glorious trio of heroes who checked the Moslem advance upon Christendom.

Clementina died in the odour of sanctity in 1735, to the great grief of her husband and her sons, and many miraculous cures from her relics, or on her invocation, are recorded. She was buried in St. Peter's at Rome.

RECEPTION AT THE COLLEGE.

On Wednesday, April 24th, the President and Council invited Miss Patt Tuckett, Commandant of the Unit, Sister Oakley Williams, Miss Fergusson and Mr. Gregory Macdonald to meet members interested in the good work of providing service and skilled nursing for the Polish soldiers on the Western Front, and a really enthusiastic gathering assembled in spite of the fact that owing to acute illness Miss Tuckett was, on doctor's orders, and greatly to her disappointment, unable to be present.

Lovely flowers, the gifts of Miss A. S. Bryson and Miss E. Hussey, added to the harmony of the house; their scent and charm made war seem very far away.

In spite of rations, a dainty tea was served. In the centre of the table was placed a cake decorated with a silver (paper) horse-shoe "for luck." After tea a meeting was held in the Board Room, the President inviting Mr. Macdonald to speak on the work of the Polish Relief Fund. Mrs. Fenwick said the Allies were in honour bound to restore the independence of Poland. It was unthinkable that a brilliant people which had given birth to generations of patriots, to Paderewski and Mme. Curie (Skłodovska), should be swept from the earth. The Canadian Polish Ambulance Unit, when at work, would serve Poland's defenders to the utmost of its power. The British College of Nurses was honoured in taking part in the work.

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