

## THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

It is good to note that the Nurses' Organisations are, as far as possible, keeping in touch with members. The Nightingale Fellowship held its Commemoration Service in the Hospital Chapel on May 5th, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury preached the sermon, and which, as usual, was well attended.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses has summoned a General Meeting, to be held in the Lecture Room, Nurses' Home, on July 6th, for which a full agenda has been issued. After the business is concluded, the meeting will resolve itself into a Social Gathering in the Nurses' Sitting Room.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

The annual meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons will take place at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on Saturday, May 25th, preceded by the usual Annual Service at 2.15 p.m., at which the address will be given by the Very Reverend the Dean of St. Paul's.

Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, is President of the Association.

### THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Miss Mary Jones, O.B.E., A.R.R.C., has been elected President of the Royal College of Nursing, in succession to Miss Beatrice Monk, C.B.E., R.R.C. Miss Jones trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, where she has held the position of Matron since 1925. She is a member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Miss Jones is also on Queen Alexandra's Army Nursing Board and the Territorial Army Nursing Committee, and a Sector Matron under the Emergency Hospital Scheme.

#### The Annual Report, 1939.

The Report to be presented at the Twelfth Ordinary General Meeting on Thursday, May 16th, to be held in the Cowdray Hall, Henrietta Place, W., at 3 p.m., contains amendments or additions to the Charter of Incorporation of the College, and we note that it is proposed to adopt a clause to provide that every member shall be entitled to style herself a Member and use the letters "M.R.C.N." or to provide for election as Fellows and be entitled to use the letters "F.R.C.N." after her name.

Imitation, we are told, is the sincerest form of flattery, and since its inception the British College of Nurses has elected Fellows and Members; care must be taken to distinguish between the letters used by the British College for the past fourteen years—F.B.C.N. and M.B.C.N.; so that no confusion may arise.

#### The Report of the Hon. Treasurers, 1939.

The Report of the Hon. Treasurers is signed by "Comyns Berkeley, W. H. Goschen and Ellen M. Musson." Financial Reports are far from satisfactory in many instances, partly no doubt owing to the War. The Hon. Treasurers have to report that the General Fund Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1939, results in a deficit of £576 10s. 1d. The income of the General Fund is less than last year by £1,118 6s. 3d., and the expenditure is less by £308 7s. 1d. The Accumulated Fund now stands at £754 1s. 7d. The total of the Balance Sheet at December 31st, 1939, is £251,387 5s. 1d., represented in the Liabilities side by Creditors and Apportionment and Balances on College Funds, and on the Assets side by Properties, Investments, Cash and Sundry Assets.

A glance at the Balance Sheet proves that the Royal College of Nursing is a costly institution to maintain, and

it would appear that if a balance of income and expenditure is to be attained, a reduction should be made in the future in salaries, pensions and superannuation which amounts to £4,566 18s. 4d.; Housekeeping, fuel and light, £1,786 5s. 8d.; Postage and telephone, £722 11s. 5d., and Lecturers' fees, £954 14s. 1d.

From receipts Founder Members paid £526 2s. 11d. and Annual Members, less capitation grants, £4,441 16s. 11d. The most lucrative assets appear to be Rents Receivable, which amounted to £4,503 9s. 5d., and receipts from the Student Nurses' Association amounting to £772 4s. 0d., and when we realise that Student Nurses are not members of the College, and cannot be considered entirely free agents whilst under the control of Matron members, through whose approval and favour their whole professional advancement and status may depend, we are of opinion that this system of taxation of students in the Training Schools should be prohibited by their governing bodies.

The association of Student Nurses, for their own pleasure and benefit, should be left to their own discretion, free from financial pressure in support of the Royal College of Nursing.

Difficult times are ahead for all Nurses' organisations unless each member loyally supports those of which she approves.

We advise Registered Nurses to make searching enquiries into the policy of their Committees—are they or are they not tenaciously supporting professional education and status—or are they swimming with the tide like the G.N.C. and willing to provide competition with semi-trained persons to the ultimate degradation of nursing standards?

*J'y suis, j'y reste.*

Persons in high places have nothing to fear. *J'y suis, j'y reste.* It is well, therefore, that the rank and file should make it clear that they expect no further exploitation.

## THE REGISTER OF NURSES MAINTAINED BY THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

We have to thank the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland for a copy of the Register of Nurses, containing names, qualifications and addresses of nurses, 1940.

We welcome this handsome volume, bound in royal blue, and excellently printed on admirable paper. The compilation of entries is much on the lines of the English Register, giving in columns, register number, name, address, date of registration and qualifications. The Register contains lists of General Nurses, Male Nurses (general training), Mental Nurses, Sick Children's Nurses, Fever Nurses, and Nurses for Mental Defectives. The Register of Nurses maintained by the General Nursing Council for Scotland is a great asset, both for those whose names appear in it, and for the general public, to whom it is a useful guide and safeguard where skilled nursing is concerned. It should be placed in medical and nursing schools, in public libraries, clubs and other public offices, to be readily consulted by the Registered Nurses and the public.

We warmly congratulate the General Nursing Council for Scotland on the excellence of its Register, and hope, as the Ainess Committee agreed, that no depreciation of its standards will ever be affected by association with semi-trained Assistant Nurses. When we realise what it cost in the past to induce our Legislators to grant Statutory Education and Legal Status to qualified nurses, we cannot permit deterioration in any form. Rather standards of nursing must rise to keep pace with the evolution of science and medical progress.

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