

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the British College of Nurses was held at Headquarters, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, September 10th, at 3 p.m., and was very well attended considering War conditions.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the chair. The following Members of the Council were also present: Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-President; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss A. S. Bryson, Miss E. J. Haswell, Miss M. M. Ingman, Miss E. Martin, R.R.C., Fellows; and Miss K. Fogarty, Member. The President called on Miss A. S. Bryson, Acting Secretary, to read the notice convening the meeting. This done, and Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COLLEGE FOR 1940-1941.

In presenting the Annual Report for 1940-1941, 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. In this connection we have to record with sincere gratitude that during the terrible air raids on the Metropolis of the Empire, although slight damage to our Headquarters was effected, no irreparable loss was sustained. The effect of blast on some of the windows at the rear of the house has necessitated careful protection and the windows have been boarded up until such time as it would appear safe to uncover them.

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.

Legal Consideration.—It is proposed to place before you a suggested reorganisation of the Constitution of the College as requested by the Court of Chancery, which we shall proceed to discuss at the termination of this report. The difficulties of working under the old Constitution must be realised as the College had never been incorporated, and the remaining Trustee, who desires to retire, was legally advised that to participate in the Trust Fund the College must be legally incorporated.

Retired Members of the Council.

This year the Council will lose the very valuable services of Miss E. F. Brownsdon and Miss M. M. Ingman, Fellows, and Miss K. Fogarty, Member.

New Members of the Council.

The following nominations for Election to the Council have been received from: (1) Miss Susan A. Villiers, J.P., Fellow, and (2) Miss Helen McLoughlin, Member. The devoted services of both of these ladies to the Nursing profession in this country needs no emphasis. No third Member of the Council has been nominated, as under the new Constitution our Officers and Council will have to be re-elected, there would appear to be no necessity to make further nominations.

"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 and admiration 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 their active interest without this medium.

For the past year Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has continued to act as Hon. Editor.

As the official organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING 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.

The task of compiling and editing the Journal will, it is hoped, receive all the support possible in the future, as it can be easily realised, especially with the present difficulties of the printing trade, that the task of editing and producing the Journal is exceedingly onerous.

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 in the Nursing world.

Letters from Fellows and Members received by the President and Hon. Secretary have been of a most appreciative and helpful nature, realising as many of them evidently do that the usual activities, especially in relation to education, have been rendered impossible owing to the disorganisation by the War.

From the Dominions many of our colleagues have kept in touch with us through correspondence, expressing sincere loyalty with the Mother Country in connection with the War, and our colleagues in the United States of America have expressed warm sympathy with the splendid courage and devotion to duty exhibited without fail, on all occasions, by the Nurses in Great Britain and on duty Overseas.

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.

Our Vice-President, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., was last year elected as the representative of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Civil Nursing Reserve, and we have every confidence that she has presented, as far as possible, the views of the Registered Nurse.

History of Nursing Section.

Miss A. M. Bushby continues her interest in the History Section, although it has been somewhat in abeyance during the year, but as this is one of the most instructive and valuable sections of the College, the Council will wish to offer thanks to Miss Bushby for carrying on work which will be invaluable to future generations of nurses.

Important Business.

Owing to the necessity of postponing the Annual Meeting from July to September, important business was transacted at the last Meeting of the Council held on July 2nd.

The Case of Miss A. M. Brownlow.

A letter having been received from a valued Fellow, Miss A. M. Brownlow, that she had been removed from the office of Matron of the County Hospital, Farnborough, by the Minister of Health without public investigation, and having evidence in the past of the unjust manner in which this lady had been accused and exonerated after a searching public enquiry, a resolution of protest was addressed to the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)