

Minister of Health, which, together with his very unsatisfactory reply, has been published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

An Inaccurate and Unjustifiable Claim.

The Council of the College also took strong exception to an inaccurate and unjustifiable claim in the Journal used as its official organ, that the Royal College of Nursing "With no shadow of doubt, was instrumental in obtaining State Registration of Nurses."

In the opinion of the Council, and indeed in the opinion of all Registered Nurses who know the History of the Registration movement, this claim necessitated repudiation in justice to the life's work of our great pioneers, to whose devotion and generosity the Nursing profession owes its legal status. A disclaimer was therefore forwarded from the Council to the President and Council of the Royal College of Nursing.

The Assistant Nurse.

Members of this College, recruited as they are from women of responsible thought and action, will realise that the burning question of the hour is the suggested State Registration of the semi-trained so-called "Assistant Nurse," advocated by the Association of Hospital Matrons, who largely control the training and economic stability of Student Nurses, and by the Royal College of Nursing, should receive the serious consideration of every Registered Nurse who values the privileges which she now enjoys under the administration of the Nurses' Registration Acts of 1919. This is a question which it is the duty of every Registered Nurse to carefully consider, when she cannot fail to realise the injury to the sick and the disastrous result to her professional status and well-being by such competition.

Obituary.

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

Miss Minnie Drakard, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.
Miss Ethel Maud Holly, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.
Mrs. Sarah Jane Kingman, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.
Miss Lily Maud Cole, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.
Mrs. Elizabeth Annie Marden, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.
Miss Annie Gould MacLagan, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.
Miss Ethel Mary Worseldine, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.
Miss Sybil Lilian Frances Mary Tompkins, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

Miss Macdonald's Calendar Fund.

Owing to the generosity of Miss Isabel Macdonald, a number of Members of the College received a Christmas gift from the profit of her beautiful Calendar for 1941: "A Garland from Browning." The sum generously given was £16.

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

Gifts.

Gifts of books, etc., have been received, but exigencies of War have severely penalised many Fellows and Members, but we have to offer thanks for valued gifts of lovely flowers from many friends.

The International Council of Nurses.

Our Members are kept in sympathetic touch with the International Council of Nurses through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and we have to thank the President, Dean Effie Taylor, R.N., for her invaluable and sympathetic work in maintaining contact with the constituent or-

ganisations throughout the world as far as possible during War.

The Report was adopted.

The Financial Report.

The Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer, and showed a small balance, which was satisfactory considering the enormously increased cost of taxes, rates, and every necessary item of expenditure, with the exception of clerical working expenses, which, owing to generous voluntary service, had been carried on at a minimum.

Appointment of Auditors.

Messrs. Reeves, Gothard, and Farries were reappointed Auditors for the coming year.

Welcome to New Councillors.

The President welcomed the new Councillors, who were present: Miss Susan A. Villiers, S.R.N., Fellow, and Miss Helen McLoughlin, S.R.N., Member. Both ladies returned thanks for their election.

The Case of Miss Brownlow.

Miss Brownlow expressed thanks for the valuable publicity given to her case through the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. She felt sure the time would come when the protest sent from the Council to the Ministry of Health would take effect.

The Assistant Nurse.

The opinion was expressed that those who advocated the registration of the semi-trained nurse know little or nothing of nursing economics and the disastrous result of the cheap competition of the semi-qualified woman with the efficient Registered Nurse. Such a principle would not be tolerated in any profession of men.

A New Constitution.

Owing to the demise and retirement of the two Trustees, a new Constitution for the College was considered and adopted, the details of which will be considered by the Council at a later date when the legal details have been agreed.

Resolutions Adopted.

In the last issue of this Journal several Resolutions adopted were reported:—

1. A Vote of Thanks to the Fighting Forces of the Empire.
2. The organisation of a Special Committee to consider the legal status of the Registered Nurse.
3. To accept the invitation of the Minister of Health to appoint a Representative on to the Nurses' Salaries Committee.
4. To decline the invitation of the Royal College of Nursing to appoint a representative on the Nursing Services Committee composed of employers and employed and previously pledged to the registration of the semi-trained assistant nurse.

Thanks to Officials and Others.

Hearty votes of thanks were approved to the devoted honorary workers: Miss A. S. Bryson, Mrs. Jessop, Miss H. Hawkins, and Miss C. Gooding; and to the clerical staff, Miss M. Angel and Miss B. Bowering.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

The Meeting then terminated, and a simple social gathering was enjoyed, the plentiful supply of tea having come from Miss Fairley, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, and for which courtesy thanks have been sent to Vancouver.

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