

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A meeting of the Council was held on Thursday, July 9th, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., was in the Chair, and the following members attended: Miss Mary S. Cochrane, R.R.C., S.R.N., Vice-President; Miss A. M. Bushby, S.R.N.; Miss G. M. Hardy, S.R.N.; Miss E. Martin, R.R.C., S.R.N.; Miss Susan Villiers, S.R.N. (Fellows); and Miss H. McLoughlin, S.R.N., and Miss E. Hussey, S.R.N. (Members). Regrets at inability to attend were received from Miss E. Brodie, S.R.N.; and Miss H. G. Ballard, S.R.N. Prayers having been read by Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N. (Secretary), the minutes were confirmed and signed.

Death of the Donor of the Endowment Fund.

The President reported with sincere regret the death of Miss Mary Ethel Fletcher, the generous donor of the Endowment Fund of the College, which took place on June 15th, 1942, at Tunbridge Wells, and the subsequent arrangements. A very beautiful wreath composed of pink carnations and scabious, inscribed "With the sincere gratitude of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.," was placed on the grave.

The President felt sure that at some future time consideration would be given by the Council to an expression of gratitude to the Founder of the British College of Nurses.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

Arising out of the Minutes, the correspondence with the Minister of Health was read and considered in reference to receiving a Deputation of Registered Nurses, to place before him the proposed degrading of Nursing Standards, by the legal registration of the semi-trained Assistant Nurse. It was decided to communicate further with the Minister of Health.

Correspondence.

Several interesting letters were reported.

The King's Birthday Honours.

As already announced in the King's Birthday Honours, Miss Katherine H. Jones, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S., was promoted a Dame of the British Empire. In reply to a telegram of congratulation from the British College, Dame Katherine Jones wrote as follows: "Thank you most sincerely for your kind telegram of congratulations on the high honour which has been conferred upon me, representing as I do all those S.R.N.s of Great Britain now serving with skill and courage in the military medical units in all the war areas. The honour is theirs. I can only hope that I may hold it for them worthily as proof of the Army's appreciation of the way in which they are upholding the high traditions of the Nursing Profession as a whole and of the Military Nursing Service in particular."

It was agreed to place this letter alluding to the National Services of Military Nurses in the History of Nursing Section with other historic documents referring to the present war.

Correspondence with Miss A. M. Brownlow, F.B.C.N., was reported, with copy of the discussion in the House of Commons, brought forward by Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., Chislehurst.

Advice to Miss Brownlow was agreed.

Financial Statement.

The audited accounts to date of Incorporation were received, together with a communication from the Auditors. The audited accounts from date of Incorporation in February, 1942, will be presented later.

The Council were pleased to note that Fellows and Members had paid subscriptions promptly in spite of their heavy war taxes.

The Nurses' Salaries' Committee.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, Vice-President, delegate for the College in Lord Rushcliffe's Committee for Salaries for Nurses, made a report to date. Much time had been spent in consideration of the details, but so far the matter had not reached a stage when a report can be issued to the public.

GIFTS TO THE HISTORY OF NURSING SECTION.

The following unique and most valuable gifts for the History of Nursing Section were presented by Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman of the Section:—

I.

NOTES ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE

HEALTH, EFFICIENCY, AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY,

FOUNDED CHIEFLY ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE LATE WAR
by FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

PRESENTED BY REQUEST OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON & SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C. 1858.

Miss Bushby said:—

It was my good fortune to be led to a secondhand bookseller's shop, where I found two most interesting books in their original covers and uncut, written by Florence Nightingale, in 1858: "Notes on Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency, and Hospital Administration of the British Army. Founded chiefly on the Experience of the late War."

This book is most comprehensive; on its first page instructions from the Secretary of State. How wonderful for any woman to be so honoured as to receive a letter from Lord Panmure, who was then Secretary of State, in which he asks Miss Nightingale to give her opinions formed in the Crimean War.

Lord Panmure wrote:—

"Your personal experience and observation, during the late War, must have furnished you with much important information relating not only to the medical care and treatment of the sick and wounded, but also to the sanitary requirements of the Army generally, and the communication of your opinions upon these subjects cannot fail to prove very valuable."

The Preface is cut up into three sections and contains 35 pages.

Notes on the Sufferings and Privations of the Army from April, 1854, to the beginning of 1855.

Employment of Female Nurses is also dealt with, but it is more thoroughly gone into in the Second Volume: "Introduction of Female Nursing into Military Hospitals."

Miss Bushby stated:—

"While the proof sheets of the 'Notes' were passing through the press, the Report of the Royal Commission on the Sanitary State of the Army, also a mass of correspondence on the Care of the Sick and Wounded, were received by Miss Nightingale. Every letter was carefully gone over, which threw many lights on the administration in the Army Medical Department.

"Miss Nightingale deals with this report in a masterly way.

"The Appendix, which also contains suggestions to improve the diet of the Army, also gives recipes for Cooking in Military Hospitals.

"In reading through this wonderful book the impression left on one's memory is the mass of valuable material accumulated, and how anyone who worked so hard and wrote so many letters to relations and friends of the wounded soldiers could have acquired such detailed knowledge of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)