

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday, September 3rd, at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7 at 2.30 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., was in the Chair.

Prayers having been read by Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N. (Secretary), the Minutes were confirmed and signed.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

A communication to the Minister of Health as directed by the last meeting of the Council, and his Private Secretary's reply, were read. So far the Minister has not yet found time to receive a deputation of the rank and file of Registered Nurses, so that they may lay before him their reasoned objections to the proposal of the Association of Hospital Matrons to register semi-trained Assistant Nurses.

Correspondence.

The President reported that letters had been received reporting that two past members of the Council had been appointed to new and responsible positions.

Miss K. Forgarty, S.R.N., to the position of Deputy Matron to the Farnborough County Hospital, and Miss Dorothy de Meza Warren, S.R.N., D.N., to the position of Assistant Matron to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.

The Council agreed that its warm congratulations should be sent to its late colleagues, wishing them happiness and success in their new spheres of duty.

Letters were reported:—

1. From Sir Ernest and Lady Graham Little, expressing gratitude for sympathy in the cruel loss of their only surviving child on active service.

2. From Miss Tinton offering help in the campaign for the efficient care of the chronic sick.

3. From Miss Lucy Liptrot for thanks for help on Talk for Girls of the Youth Movement (on Nursing).

Miss Gladys M. Hardy, S.R.N., has most kindly written an excellent paper on this subject which is available for arousing interest in nursing as a career for girls.

4. Letter from Miss Angela Ravasio drawing attention to the "Women for Westminster Movement."

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE ASSISTANT NURSE.

5. Communications from nurses on the staff of the London County Council strongly objecting to:—

1. That having appointed an alien-born Matron-in-Chief, it has now passed a Resolution to employ Assistant Nurses on the School Nursing Service.

2. The Council also proposes to organise a school to train these nurses on a short-term and insufficient system, ignoring the State standard recognised by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, a decision calculated to undermine the economic and professional status of Registered Nurses employed by the Council. After discussion on this correspondence, it was unanimously agreed that a Resolution should be sent to the Chairman of the London County Council expressing the strong disapproval of the British College of Nurses Ltd., to the degrading of Nursing Standards especially where the schoolchildren of the poor are concerned.

6. Ballot papers for the National Council of Women Elections to which the College is affiliated were presented. Action was taken.

Financial Statement.

A financial statement was presented. It was hoped all Fellows and Members would pay their subscriptions for the year 1942, the large majority having already done so.

Dividends from the Invested Funds, £100,000, would be due early in 1943, now that the College has been incorporated, when it was hoped schemes for the benefit of those associated with it would be inaugurated.

Communications from the Solicitor.

Documents from the Solicitor were considered, and matters agreed, including a slight alteration to the Seal of the Company.

"Women for Westminster Movement:."

The President brought forward literature explanatory of "The Women for Westminster Movement," the primary object of which is to promote the election of women to Parliament on a free political ticket.

The President reported that she had had an explanatory interview with the Secretary, Miss Dorothy E. Evans, at 14, Dartmouth Street, S.W.1, and was impressed with the value of the Movement which desired to accomplish the education and inspiration of women as capable citizens, to enable them to do their civic and political duty. She proposed to deal further with this vital matter in a future issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. The Council expressed interest in the scheme, which it thought might be found of great value to nurses, who, at present, were not encouraged to fit themselves for public service.

The meeting then terminated, and tea was served in the Secretary's office, guests attending.

KNITTING FOR THE MERCHANT NAVY.

Our clerical staff are very grateful admirers of the Merchant Navy, whose expert and patriotic services are absolutely indispensable in war. They and our voluntary workers in support of the British College of Nurses are also expert knitters. This year through a friend of Miss Henrietta Hawkins, wool was supplied by St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, for roll neck sweaters, and by the friends of Miss Angel and Miss Bowering—for other "warms."

A really valuable contribution of garments has thus been knitted by experts—and it was with much pride and pleasure that they were placed on view before dispatch to St. Mary's Hospital.

The consignment consisted of really capacious roll neck sweaters, scarfs, gloves, socks, bed socks and operation stockings.

We learn that the need for warm knitted garments by sailors, soldiers and airmen is as urgent as ever, and now that winter is upon us, we hope women who cannot contribute more active service to their country, will spend every minute they can spare in knitting for their defenders, without whose self sacrifice and valour they would be deprived of their present comfort and safety.

NEW BOOKS.

New works are now available on loan to members:—
"Allergy: Strangest of all Maladies," by Warren T. Vaughan, M.D. The story of allergy—its history, methods of treatment, and the ultimate cure—is told in a popular style by a man who has made a life study of this strangest of all maladies.

"The Mental Nurses' Dictionary," by E. L. Hopewell-Ash, M.D. The definitions herein have been made for use in preparing lectures for mental nurses.

The author will welcome suggestions, questions or discoveries of difficulties which will make the dictionary more useful and helpful.

"Black's Medical Dictionary," by J. D. Comrie, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin., in its seventeenth edition has a special supplement on Air Raid Casualties, making the work complete and up to date.

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