

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Council was held at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, on Tuesday, November 3rd. There were present Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N. (President) in the Chair; Miss A. M. Bushby, S.R.N.; Miss G. M. Hardy, S.R.N., D.N.; Miss E. J. Haswell, S.R.N.; Miss Elizabeth Martin, R.R.C., S.R.N.; Miss S. A. Villiers, S.R.N., Fellows; and Miss H. McLoughlin, S.R.N., Member.

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

#### Correspondence.

Donations, with letters of approval, were received for the Defence Fund and gratitude expressed.

Other letters received were from Sir William Davison, M.P. for Kensington (S.); from members, *re* School Nursing Service, L.C.C.; from Registrar, G.N.C., supplying information required; from Miss M. M. Edwards, Nursing Recruitment Committee, supplying information required; from Miss Hyde, *re* gift of statuette of Florence Nightingale; from Secretary of Adjustment Board, inviting interest in its work; from a member, *re* Homes for Old Nurses.

#### Memorandum from the Minister of Health.

A Memorandum (confidential) from the Minister of Health was received and considered. After consideration, a reply was agreed.

#### Reply to the Report of the Nursing Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing.—Section I. The Assistant Nurse.

A short report was received. The Special Committee for the "Protection of the Legal Status of the Registered Nurse" had met twice, the opinion of delegates had been invited of those unable to attend, and recommendations considered. A reply to the Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing, on the Assistant Nurse, was urged, the Special Committee being of opinion that the registration by the State of semi-trained women unable to submit to an examination, cut at the root of a safe standard of nursing for the sick public, and efficiency of National Health Service, and would sweep away the standard of nursing efficiency maintained by the General Nursing Council for 20 years. The Council agreed with the recommendations of the Special Committee and proceeded to consider a reply, to be printed in pamphlet form.

#### A Retrospect—a Demand for Justice.

The President presented "A Retrospect—A Demand for Justice"—a considered criticism of the proposal of the Royal College of Nursing to de-grade nursing standards of efficiency now in force, by the registration by the State of semi-trained nurses. The formation of a Roll of "Practising Nurses"—nurses who failed to register 20 years ago, and also to control "Home Helps" and closing Nursing as an occupation, thus depriving the public of liberty of action.

The "Retrospect" was approved. It was agreed to postpone the consideration of the "Summary of Recommendations" of the report to a further meeting, which it was arranged should be held at 10.30 a.m., on Tuesday, November 17th.

#### Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement, as presented, was approved.

#### Election of Members.

Applications for Fellowship and Membership were considered and approved. Two resignations were received.

Legal advice from the solicitor on formal application for membership of an incorporated College was received, and the Secretary was directed to act upon it.

The meeting then terminated. Tea was served in the Secretary's office, Miss Bryson presiding.

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Christmas greetings have been sent from the office of our National Council of Nurses in London, to our colleagues in the Great Dominions, in India and the United States of America, and with them a really charming little gift the beautifully illustrated pamphlet "Our Princesses in 1942," by Lisa Sheridan, published by authority of Her Majesty the Queen. In a foreword it is written: "A home may be royal, but at the same time it can be very simple and natural. Work and play, serious hours and gay ones, natural and unostentatious homelife in a happy family circle—that is the keynote of this book."

"Our Princesses in 1942" presents a complete year's cycle in the lives of Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The great charm of the exquisite coloured portraits is the evident comradeship of the King and Queen with their children, who live an ideal outdoor life when out of the schoolroom. We feel sure the recipients of our gift will value it, and we hope place it with other treasures in the libraries of their National Association of Nurses.

Let us hope that by next Christmas the world's greetings will include "Peace on Earth."

## THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

We like the following little story which we cull from the *New Zealand Nursing Journal* :—

### CHILD WITH NO NAME.

#### ORPHAN OF LONDON "BLITZ" BEGINS A NEW LIFE.

"There is a little girl in London whose name no one will ever know. She lost her parents in a raid over London, and from that night she started life all over again.

"For two years she had been someone's baby daughter; no one will ever know whose. That first chapter of her life ended one night 15 months ago, when she sat on a London pavement and cried because she was alone and cold and very frightened.

"Chapter two began when someone heard her cry and took her to the police station.

"Throughout that night of 'blitz' and in the days and nights of raids that followed her parents were sought in vain. No one ever claimed the baby without a name, so she was called Ruth and given a surname which commemorated that night when her new life began.

"Ruth became the child of the London County Council. They gave her an identity card, a ration book, and a gas mask. She was also given a brand new official birth-date—October 1, 1938—so that she can have a birthday party every year and a twenty-first when she comes of age just like any other girl.

"At Fairfield, the L.C.C. hostel in Dawlish, Devon, for nearly a year Ruth had everything a baby needs except a father and mother and a home of her own. Somewhere in London lived a middle-aged couple who were well off and had everything they wanted except a baby girl.

"Now Ruth has gone to live with them 'on approval' for six months. Now and then she will have a visitor, an L.C.C. woman welfare officer, who will call to see that she is really happy. Next March, if all goes well, Ruth will be legally adopted by her new mother and father.

"When she takes her third name in less than four years she will still be Ruth, but her surname will be that of her foster parents."

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