

broadcast, but apparently the B.B.C. failed to realise the impression it would make. Personally, we are surprised at nothing so far as our professional affairs are concerned. From the hour the members of the Royal College of Nursing succeeded, in association with the Minister of Health, in tearing down our nursing standards which took half a century to build up, we cannot affect to be surprised at any *bêtise* which semi-trained women may spring upon the public. The large body of Registered Nurses who have supported degrading must now suffer its results. We fear that irresponsible V.A.D.s, Assistant Nurses and others will avail themselves of the professional status thrust upon them by Parliament and claim to address the public with the voice of the Nursing Profession. The more voluble they become, the sooner the Registered Nurses who have helped to thrust them forward will learn their lesson. And that lesson will be a bitter one. So much the better; the sooner they realise its significance, the sooner, let us hope, they will support those of their colleagues who are out for justice to the Registered Nurse and the public.

In the meantime "Little Nurse," the V.A.D., who has brought about the present controversy, has genius which we advise her to apply to a literary or dramatic career.

There is no disability with which Nurses have greater sympathy than that of blindness, and the announcement that a scheme has been inaugurated at Oxford University for the foundation of a department for ophthalmic research is indeed good news. The scheme includes the provision and equipment of laboratories, lecture rooms, a library, and museum as part of a department for the prevention of blindness the activities of which should include research, teaching, and the treatment of patients.

#### NEW MATRON AT CHARING CROSS.

There are seldom changes in the office of Matron in the large London Hospitals; thus, the resignation after a long term of office of Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., S.R.N., from Charing Cross Hospital, came as somewhat of a surprise, and her pupils and friends have speeded her departure with sincere regrets and gifts, hoping that she may enjoy some leisure before undertaking any further work for the Nursing profession.

Miss D. M. Dickinson, S.R.N., a past pupil of the Charing Cross Nursing School, and who has made a record reputation as an administrator, has now taken up duty as Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, and will, we feel sure, devote all her energies to the administration of the Nursing department, and will no doubt receive help and sympathy from those with whom she will have to work. As an old friend, we wish her the success and happiness she deserves.

#### "A SHORT HISTORY OF NURSING."

We regret to hear from Putnam & Co., Ltd., publishers, that they are sold out of "A Short History of Nursing," Dock and Stewart, and unable to say when they may receive a consignment from New York, so for the present we are unable to provide further copies for our readers on sale.

So far, all have been supplied that have been ordered, and the British College of Nurses, Ltd., will be pleased to send copies on loan to Fellows and Members as those out are returned.

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on Thursday, September 9th, 1943, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, at 3 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members of Council attended in their robes—Miss Helena McLoughlin, Vice-President, Miss Gladys Hardy, Miss Susan A. Villiers, Mrs. Margaret B. Carmichael, Fellows; and Miss May C. Ping, Member.

There was a fair attendance of Members, many letters of regret having been received expressing inability to attend owing to difficulties of duty and travel.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, who also read the Notice convening the Meeting, the Minutes were read, approved and signed.

The President presented the Annual Report as follows, which is somewhat abridged.

### THE SECOND ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942-1943, PRESENTED BY THE COUNCIL.

In presenting the annual report for 1942-1943, we are to be congratulated that our financial position has been determined, and, through the Charity Commissioners, the dividends from our invested funds, upwards of £100,000, are paid for our use into the Westminster Bank, free of income tax, and the very satisfactory sum placed at our disposal this year, which appears in the financial report, relieves the Council of the anxiety which pertained during the past three years pending the decision in the High Court of Justice, and will enable the College to organise educational and benevolent schemes for the benefit of the Fellows and Members.

It is to be regretted that the normal activities of the College have had to be considerably curtailed owing to the continuance of war, for upwards of four years; but we may congratulate ourselves that the College is now incorporated and its income secured.

The Council has met constantly and kept in active touch with members, and has administered the business with discretion and economy, and every care has been taken of valuable property until such time as full use can be made of it for the general benefit.

#### Retired Members of Council.

This year the Council will lose by rotation the very valuable services of Miss A. M. Bushby and Miss E. Martin, R.R.C., Fellows, and of Miss E. Hussey, Member, to whom our sincere gratitude is due for the interest and support they have given to the work of the College during their term of office.

#### New Members of Council.

The following nominations for election have been received: *Fellows*—Mrs. M. C. Lediard, S.R.N., R.M.N., D.N. (Lond.), Matron and Sister Tutor, Middlesex Colony, Shenley, Herts.; (2) Mrs. M. B. Carmichael, S.R.N. S.C.M., Cert. Charing Cross Hospital, Assistant Matron and Tutor, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields), London; and *Member*—Miss M. C. Ping, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, Principal and Owner, Suffolk House Maternity Home, Stanmore, Middlesex. No other candidate being nominated, there was no necessity, therefore, to hold an election.

#### Vice-President.

During the past year Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., resigned the office of Vice-President of the Council, and

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