

Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., was elected to this office.

Miss H. Ballard, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.), resigned as a member of the Council during the year, and has been succeeded for the term of one year by Miss B. G. Sorlie, S.R.N., Cert. Royal Infirmary, Dundee, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute, Senior Health Visitor, Acton, W.3.

These ladies' varied experience will, we feel sure, be invaluable in the deliberations of the Council, as they include practical experience in General, Mental, Maternity, Ophthalmic and Tuberculosis Nursing, Sanitary Inspection, Health Visiting and Teaching.

"The British Journal of Nursing."

Through its association with THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the College has kept in monthly touch with Fellows and Members at home and abroad. The courageous campaign of this professional Journal, entirely free of trade influence, has maintained the claim to professional freedom and self-determination, and many expressions of gratitude have been received for its inspiration and for the professional instruction it contains. As the official organ of the International Council of Nurses in Great Britain, it has rendered signal service in keeping British nurses in touch with their colleagues throughout the British Empire and in U.S.A.

Benevolent Grants.

A sum of £50 was distributed in grants to six members of the College who had suffered damage from enemy action, for which they were very grateful, especially those whose health had suffered in consequence of blitz; other grants were also donated.

The Lending Library.

The Lending Library is open for the use of Fellows and Members, and many new technical and other books of interest have been added during the past year, the majority donated by THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Unique volumes of the lives of eminent nurses, not now procurable, are in the Isla Stewart Library, and may be studied at the College.

The History of Nursing Section.

Although it has been somewhat in abeyance during the past year, we have received valuable gifts: from Miss A. M. Bushby, very valuable documents and historical data *re* Miss Florence Nightingale, and from Miss Lavinia L. Dock and Miss Isabel Stewart, Teachers' College, New York, an inscribed copy as joint authors of the fourth edition of "A Short History of Nursing," to be placed in the Isla Stewart Library, which addition to our history section is unique.

The President has handed over to Trustees gifts of antique furniture, etc., including the magnificent silver salver presented to her in London, in 1899, as its Founder, by the International Council of Nurses, together with the finely illuminated address presented with it.

This salver was made by the great silversmith William Peasden in 1742, in the reign of George II,

Gifts.

Amongst valued gifts received, a generous grant of money was made by Miss Isabel Macdonald from the profits of her Calendar Fund for cheer at Christmas, which was greatly appreciated by lonely members.

The International Council of Nurses.

Dean Effie Taylor, R.N., the President of the International Council of Nurses, now located at New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A., has kept in touch with our National Council of Nurses, in the kindest manner during the past year, and is of opinion that the time is approaching when it will be helpful to resume our old-time relations, and know

of the progress that is being made in regard to nursing activities, and she is now anxious to develop the Council office on a full-time basis so that normal functions may be re-established. Dean Effie Taylor writes: "We hope you will do everything in your power to maintain the old time interest as soon as conditions make this possible."

This will doubtless be the policy of this College, and the Council will, we feel sure, keep in mind how necessary it will be to help finance affiliation between the nurses of the world.

Retrospect.

On Thursday, February 25th, 1943, a General Meeting of Fellows and Members was held at 19, Queen's Gate, to comply with the new bye-laws after the incorporation of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., as a limited company, by the Board of Trade, at which the President presented a tabulated list of investments amounting to £102,038; but reminded those present that at the present time 2 or 3 per cent., instead of 5 as in the past, was all that safe investments were worth. But on this solid basis, if Registered Nurses joined the College in large numbers they could enjoy self-governing conditions and protect their educational and economic standards, and that never was such power more necessary than at present.

Presumably the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., will consider it their duty for the sake of high and safe standards of national health and skilled care of the sick, to rectify the grave results of degrading by Acts of Parliament at the earliest possible moment.

The fact remains that with our basic income we are placed in a position of security and independence, which is only limited by the number of self-respecting nurses who co-operate for the public welfare and their own security, and it is here necessary to emphasise the fact that unless groups of working women unite, as men do, sound economic conditions cannot be maintained.

The Fellows and Members must bring the sound economic policy of the College to the notice of Registered Nurses and inspire them to join it, otherwise standards, both professional and economic, will deteriorate after war ceases, and the re-organisation of nursing conditions is attempted, when thousands of semi-trained nurses now earning high salaries in the Civil Nursing Reserve will be in competition with Registered Nurses.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the deaths of Miss Mary Lamont Ritchie Thomson, R.R.C., Fellow. Miss Fanny Caroline Bell, Fellow. Miss Josephine Georgina Gilchrist, Member.

Their sincere interest in the work of the College for many years did much to establish it, and their loss is deeply mourned.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

A Memorandum Account of Receipts and Payments, ending June 30th, 1943, was received from the auditors showing an excess of income over expenditure of £1,220 0s. 8d. for the year. It was explained that all the necessary extra expenditure in connection with legal outlay and incorporation had been paid, and to date the surplus in the bank was £1,678 9s. 1d., so that the future work of the College could now be defined for the benefit of its members.

This Report was received by those present with evident satisfaction and adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

Messrs. Reeves, Gothard and Farries, Chartered Accountants, were re-elected the Auditors of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

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