

**WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLORS.**

The President then welcomed the two new Councillors present—Mrs. M. B. Carmichael, S.R.N., and Miss M. C. Ping, S.R.N., whose services, she felt sure, would be of great value in the organisation of the work of the Council.

She regretted that owing to an accident Mrs. M. C. Lediard, S.R.N., D.N., was unable to be present, as her courageous energy was a great asset to the profession at large, and also that duty had prevented the attendance of Miss B. G. Sorlie, S.R.N., whose interest in public affairs would be a good example to all concerned in these days of depreciation by Parliament of nursing standards and in consequence of economic security.

**RESOLUTIONS.**

The following Resolutions were unanimously adopted with acclamation, and it was agreed that they should be sent to the appropriate authorities.

**AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE FIGHTING FORCES.**

To the Rt. Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, First Lord of the Admiralty.

"That the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in Annual General Meeting assembled, desire to express their sincere gratitude and admiration for the valiant services rendered by all classes of men serving with the Royal Navy—to whom, combined with other Forces of the Crown, the people of Great Britain owe life and liberty during war."

Resolutions in almost identical terms were addressed to the Rt. Hon. Sir James Grigg, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., M.P., Secretary of State for War, and to the Rt. Hon. Sir Archibald Sinclair, Bt., K.T., C.M.G., Secretary of State and President of the Air Council.

**AN EXPRESSION OF SINCERE APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION OF THE NURSING SERVICES.**

To DAME KATHARINE H. JONES, D.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

"The Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in General Meeting assembled, desire to give expression to their sincere appreciation and admiration of the devoted and invaluable services rendered by the members of all ranks of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and its Reserve, to the sick and wounded at home and abroad."

Resolutions in almost identical terms were recorded and forwarded to the Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, and to the Matron-in-Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

**APPEALS FOR JUSTICE.**

The following Resolution was unanimously agreed, and it was directed that it should be sent to the Minister of Health:—

To the Right Honble. Ernest Brown, M.C., M.P.,  
Minister of Health.

"The Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in General Meeting assembled, desire to express to the Right Honble. Ernest Brown, M.C., M.P., Minister of Health, their strong objection to the unjust conditions established in the Nursing Profession by the Nurses Act, 1943,

"Whereas:

"Nurses fully qualified under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, deprecate being associated with semi-trained Assistant Nurses whose recognition by the State lowers standards of nursing education and efficiency attained, to the detriment of the Public Health and the Safety of the Sick.

"Whereas:

"The Minister of Health, in drafting his Bill without consultation with the Registered members of the Nursing Profession, took power to use their Headquarters and

pool their finances in support of its de-grading provisions, has aroused just indignation upon the part of the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., who demand the withdrawal, without delay, of Rule 19, Part 3, of the Nurses Act, 1943, which in their opinion is a breach of privileges secured to them in the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919."

The following Resolution was unanimously agreed, and it was directed it should be sent to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

To the Chairman, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

"That the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in General Meeting assembled, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, September 9th, 1943, express strong disapproval of raising the contributory fees of Registered Nurses; power having been taken in Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, to pool the contributions of Registered Nurses for the organisation, if necessary, of the Assistant Nurses' Roll, and thus relieve them of the necessity of financing any deficit which may occur in its administration.

"Should the very limited subscription of £1 1s. 0d., for which Assistant Nurses are responsible, be insufficient, in the opinion of this Meeting the Treasury should be made responsible for the deficit, and not the Registered Nurses, whose economic status is seriously menaced in the Nurses Act, 1943, by competition with semi-trained nurses."

**RECEPTION AND TEA.**

The Fellows and Members able to accept the invitation to tea met together in cheerful friendship in spite of professional depreciation, and one and all, full of courage and good will, expressed their intention of helping to prevent further injury to nursing efficiency. It was good to meet members of the Old Guard who in the past had devoted unstinted service in attaining State Registration of Nurses in the 1919 Act on sound educational and economic standards.

Let their juniors who have benefited by their labours prove their gratitude by upholding the Flag.

**DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING.**

The Council of the College will be summoned to meet on Wednesday, October 20th, at 2.30 p.m.

**KEEP OUR PRISONERS EVER IN MEMORY.**

We are glad to learn that "Our Finest Hour and Other Verses," by Hilda Trevelyan-Thomson, which is being sold for the Prisoners of War Fund of the Red Cross and St. John, has met with the approval of quite a number of celebrated people.

H.M. Queen Mary has accepted a copy "gladly" and Sybil Thorndike especially likes the poem on the prisoners, and has sent it to her son John, who is a prisoner of war. The Dean of St. Paul's also commends these verses.

This was our finest hour.—PRIME MINISTER.

Though seemingly alone we stand,  
Invisible, on every hand,  
Massed in invincible array,  
Stand Englishmen of yesterday.  
The statesmen who held honour high;  
The heroes who were proud to die;  
The martyrs fighting for the truth;  
The men who gladly threw their youth  
Into the crucible of pain  
That England might be free again.

We do not fight alone, while they  
With flaming sword show us the way  
To prove that Evil has no power.  
*This is indeed our finest hour.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)