

The War Office, S.W.1.
September 16th, 1943.

DEAR MADAM,—

It was with deep gratitude that I read the Resolution passed by the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., at their General Meeting, held on September 9th, 1943, in which they expressed their sincere appreciation and admiration of the services now being rendered by the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and T.A.N.S. officers to the sick and wounded at home and abroad.

On behalf of the Military Nursing Services, I ask you to thank the British College of Nurses for their great kindness in remembering us, and in passing such an appreciative resolution.

Yours sincerely,

KATHARINE H. JONES,
Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S.

Air Ministry, Adastral House,
Kingsway, W.C.2.

Miss G. TAYLOR, Matron-in-Chief, P.M.R.A.F.N.S. :—

DEAR MADAM,—

I have to thank you for your letter of September 15th. . . . The Resolution passed by the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses has been noted, and is appreciated.

Reply from the Minister of Health.

A communication was read from Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, in reply to the Resolution addressed to him from the Annual General Meeting inviting him to withdraw from the Nurses Act, 1943, Rule 19, Part 3, which empowers the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to pool funds contributed by Registered Nurses; for the organisation of the Assistant Nurses' Roll if necessary. In acknowledging the Resolution, Mr. Brown's Private Secretary states: "I am directed by Mr. Ernest Brown to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 15th, enclosing a Resolution on the Nurses Act, 1943, and to say that it is receiving attention."

As no further communication was to hand, the Council decided to communicate further with the Minister of Health on this important matter, as feeling was very strong concerning this very unjust provision in the Act.

Communication from the General Nursing Council.

The following letter was read from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales :—

23, Portland Place, London, W.1.
October 5th, 1943.

DEAR MADAM,—

With reference to your letter on September 14th, enclosing a resolution of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., I am directed to inform you that this was laid before the Council at their meeting on September 24th, and was noted. I am to say that it is the expressed intention of the Assistant Nurses' Committee, as well as of the General Nursing Council, that the whole cost of carrying out the work of enrolment of Assistant Nurses shall be met out of funds received from Assistant Nurses.

Yours faithfully,

G. E. DAVIES.

After considering this reply, the Council decided to communicate further with the General Nursing Council in the matter, as in its opinion the fee of £1 ls. only to be paid by Assistant Nurses cannot cover necessary expenditure. It was agreed to place a schedule of necessary expenditure before the General Nursing Council, and to urge that the Treasury and not the Registered Nurses should be made responsible for the inevitable deficit.

Organised Nursing Education.

The Council then considered details of more efficient Nursing Education :—

- (a) Educational Lectures;
- (b) Reprints in Leaflet form from the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING;
- (c) A course of Lectures on the History of Professional Nursing in Great Britain.

The President reported that Student Nurses had informed her that Sister Tutors in Teaching Nursing History entirely omitted any reference to the organisation of Nursing as a Profession in Great Britain from the year 1887 to 1919, when the Nurses' Registration Acts were made law.

These students could get no reply to questions as to who inaugurated the demand for reform. What societies drafted Bills; who were the Members who presented Bills to Parliament, and so on. Lectures on "The History of Professional Nursing in Great Britain" covered 30 years of organisation and cost those who promoted and paid for it at least £20,000. Had Student Nurses been taught its significance, there would have been no de-grading of nursing standards in 1943. It was agreed that financial grants should be available for those Fellows and Members who desire to study for additional qualifications and efficiency.

Financial Statement.

(1) It was reported that income tax had been repaid to the amount of £2,681 19s. 7d., which had been deducted at the source from dividends paid for 1939, 1940, and 1941, before the incorporation of the College, and the interim dividend paid by the Great Western Railway, in 1942. Part of this amount will be paid into the banking account of the College and the rest will be invested and the College receive the dividends.

(2) It was agreed to invest £200 per annum towards paying for a new lease on termination of the present lease if necessary.

(3) It was agreed to pay accounts for annual audit, and for half-yearly rates, the latter abnormally high in the Royal Borough of Kensington.

The Ethel Mary Fletcher Benevolent Fund.

The Council decided to inquire into the financial circumstances of certain Fellows and Members who had suffered in health from war conditions and family circumstances, hoping if agreeable to ameliorate such conditions, as the late generous donor of the Endowment Fund was specially interested in its benevolent activities.

Gifts.

The three new volumes of the Register of Nurses for 1943 had been presented to the College by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. This work is used in the office daily, and thanks had been sent to the Council for this invaluable gift. Useful books and pamphlets had also been received and filed in the Library.

Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, November 17th, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

The members of Council took tea in the Secretary's office, and enjoyed a delicious plum-cake, sent by Miss May Ashton, M.B.C.N., Mount Lawley, Western Australia. Her kindness made it all the sweeter.

UP-TO-DATE BOOKS.

The Secretary will be pleased to have the names of any up-to-date books for the educational loan library which members would like included.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)