

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A General Meeting of Fellows and Members was held on Thursday, February 25th, 1943, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair. The following Members of Council were present:—Miss H. McLoughlin (Vice-President), Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss G. M. Hardy, Miss S. Villiers (Fellows), and Miss H. Ballard (Member).

Letters of regret at inability to attend were received from Miss E. Brodie, Miss E. J. Haswell, and Miss E. Martin (Fellows).

There was a very good attendance of Fellows and Members.

Prayers having been read, and the Minutes read and signed, great interest was evinced in the financial report, which included the Auditors' Balance Sheet from February to June, 1942.

In accordance with the Bye-Laws, the President presented a tabulated list of investments amounting to £102,038, but reminded those present that at the present time two or three per cent., instead of five 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 never was such power more necessary, with attempts of exploitation all around.

The balance sheet and audited accounts were adopted.

Appointment of Auditors.

It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that Messrs. Reeves, Gothard, and Farries be appointed auditors to the College.

Suggestions for Future Progress.

Interesting suggestions were received for the future progress of the College. The President proposed from the Chair that all members who have suffered from enemy action should be invited to accept a grant if they were so inclined. In the room was a Fellow whose house had been bombed twice, herself having had her leg fractured. Others had suffered from shock as well as from financial loss.

This was agreed.

"A Short History of Nursing."

Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman of the History of Nursing Section, reported the publication of the fourth edition (6th volume) of "A History of Nursing," by Miss Lavinia Dock and Miss Isabel Stewart, U.S.A., and proposed that a resolution of thanks be sent to the eminent authors for the generous recognition of Nursing in Great Britain and inviting them to be good enough to inscribe a copy of the new edition to be placed in the History of Nursing Section of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., together with the previous three editions.

This resolution was agreed with acclamation.

Miss du Sautoy, Miss Hardy, Miss Ballard, Miss Tilby, and Mrs. Lediard all made helpful recommendations for the future conduct of College business which members of Council promised to take into consideration.

Resolution to the Minister of Labour.

The following resolution was discussed and unanimously adopted, and the Secretary was directed to forward a copy of it to Mr. Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour and National Service:—

RESOLUTION.

"The Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in General Meeting assembled, regret that they have been omitted from representation on the National Advisory Council for the Recruitment and

Distribution of Nurses and Midwives, set up by the Minister of Labour and National Service, and respectfully invite the Minister to rectify this omission by inviting them to take part in this National Service for which they are specially qualified by professional experience, and the endowed status of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., to which they belong."

Justice for the State Registered Nurse.

The pamphlet compiled and authorised by the Council, together with representatives of the "Special Committee for the Protection of the State Registered Nurse," was on the table, and was warmly approved by those present who had procured copies. The pamphlet was on sale to members of the College at 6d., and a large number were secured by them for the instruction of Members of Parliament and others interested in safe standards of nursing for the sick, and just economic conditions for Registered Nurses.

Votes of Thanks.

Miss Susan A. Villiers offered a warm tribute of thanks to the President for her ceaseless work for the College, and for her help in the compilation of the pamphlet. In expressing her thanks, Mrs. Fenwick stressed her indebtedness to her colleagues who had taken a warm interest in the demand for "Justice for the Registered Nurse."

The meeting then terminated. Quite a lovely tea of a cosmopolitan quality was served in the Secretary's office. Sugar from U.S.A., tea from Canada, cakes from South Africa, and gifts from Members of Council.

Everyone present appeared full of energy and determination to fight to a finish for professional standards and status for the sake of the sick whom they serve.

THE PASSING BELL.

We have to record, with sincerest regret, the death of a noble and devoted nurse with whom we have been associated for many years.

MISS MARY LAMONT RITCHIE THOMSON, R.R.C., F.B.C.N.

Miss Mary Lamont Ritchie Thomson died at Tobermory, Isle of Mull, on February 13th. She trained at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, and at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, under Mrs. Strong. In 1900 she joined the Scottish Hospital and went with it to South Africa, and there joined the Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.) and served for the duration of the Boer War, and thereafter in Military Service till 1907.

From 1909 to 1930 she was in charge of Tuberculosis Outdoor Nursing Staff of Glasgow Corporation Public Health Department.

During 1914-18 Miss Ritchie Thomson was again on Military Service in France, and was awarded the R.R.C., First Class. When retired in 1930, she went to live at Tobermory; and during the present war has been Commandant of Local A.R.P., member of the Town Council, and secretary to the Local Nursing Association.

A loyal and deeply interested Fellow of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., she reflected honour upon it, and it is such women of character and devotion to duty of which the Nursing Profession is in need.

APPOINTMENT.

MATRON.

Miss Georgina Anderson, Matron of the Thomas Walker Hospital, Fraserburgh, has been appointed to the position of Matron of the Gleniffer Homes for Incurables, Paisley, in succession to Miss Alice L. Boyd, who is retiring for health reasons after 24 years' service. Trained at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, the new Matron has been seven years in her present position.

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