

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A meeting of the Council was held on Thursday, June 3rd, at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair. Prayers were read by Miss A. Stewart Bryson, Secretary. The Minutes were confirmed and signed.

Congratulations to Miss D. M. Dickinson.

Miss Bushby proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, that a telegram of congratulation should be sent to Miss D. M. Dickinson, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.B.C.N., upon her recent appointment as Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, of which she was a distinguished pupil.

This was agreed with acclamation.

Correspondence—Legal Opinions.

Letters of interest were notified from the solicitor, whose legal opinion had been invited. A letter was read in which the opinion was expressed that under the new Nurses Act, 1943, it is clear that the General Nursing Council are charged with the administration of the Roll of Assistant Nurses, and that the costs of this organisation must come out of the general funds available for the purpose. Any deficiency arising between the receipts from the Assistant Nurses and the actual cost, will have to be borne by the funds of the General Nursing Council. "Section 19 of the Act will be dealt with as part of the money received under the principal Act."

The President emphasised the fact that under the new Nurses Act, 1943, Registered Nurses might be compelled to subsidise the organisation of their semi-trained competitors, which added insult to injury. The Council realised that under this unjust legislation, defined and promoted by Mr. Ernest Brown, the Minister of Health, it would be their duty to watch with vigilance the expenditure of the General Nursing Council—especially in any legal controversy which might arise between a Registered and an Assistant Nurse. The Nurses Act, 1943, deprived Registered Nurses of privileges previously enjoyed under the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919. Their duty in future must be to work for just legislation.

Letter from Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N.

A letter of sympathy and protest was read from Miss Lavinia L. Dock, the erudite Nurse Historian, kindly sending a donation towards the fight of Registered Nurses for justice, which letter would appear in the forthcoming issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. (See Editorial.)

Financial Statement.

A report in detail of approximate annual expenditure was presented.

It was agreed to offer a grant of £10 each to the six members who had suffered from enemy action, towards their loss, the health of two members having been seriously affected.

Other grants were agreed.

Election of Members.

Members were elected, and the hope expressed that Registered Nurses would join the College in large numbers, as it was the only organisation of general Registered Nurses whose Constitution was entirely composed of general Registered Nurses, who thus were entirely free to act upon their own convictions, which would be very necessary now that they had been deprived of privileges they enjoyed under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

Appointment of Sub-Committees.

The organisation of a Finance Committee, an Education Committee and a Parliamentary Committee were con-

sidered, and names suggested. It was agreed to include Fellows and Members to serve who were not on the Council so that expert opinion might always be available.

Meeting of Council.

It was agreed that the monthly meeting of the Council should be held on the third Thursday in each month, and that the Annual Meeting, 1943, should be held in September.

Nurses (Scotland) Bill.

It was reported that a Nurses (Scotland) Bill had been introduced into Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. T. Johnston, on Thursday, May 27th, 1943, which promoted the registration of Assistant Nurses, but in a somewhat modified form. Mrs. Hardie, M.P. (Glasgow, Springburn) in a brilliant and erudite speech, contested the necessity of any such dilution of the Nursing Profession in Scotland at the present time under war conditions, or before the response to improved financial conditions had been tested.

Thanks had already been sent from the British College of Nurses, Ltd., to Mrs. Hardie for her speech advocating, as it did, the professional principles held by the College.

The Meeting then terminated.

Tea was served in the Secretary's Office, the members of Council realising the inspiration of Miss Lavinia Dock's letter and Mrs. Hardie's speech.

MALE NURSE TUTOR AT NORTH MIDDLESEX COUNTY HOSPITAL.

First Appointment of the kind in Great Britain.

Mr. Alfred John Sayer, S.R.N., holder of a Sister-Tutor's Diploma, has been appointed Male Nurse Tutor at the North Middlesex County Hospital, Edmonton. Mr. Sayer is a member of the Executive Committee of the Society of Registered Male Nurses and was trained as a nurse at Hackney Hospital. He became State Registered in 1934 and later obtained a Sister-Tutor's Certificate at Battersea Polytechnic.

His appointment marks a milestone in the history of male nurses, says *The Public Assistance Journal*. This is the first appointment of a male to a teaching capacity in any hospital in Great Britain. Male nurses have acted as Nurse Tutors upon an experimental basis in the recent past, and the Society of Registered Male Nurses looks forward to more appointments similar to that of Mr. Sayer's being made in the near future.

CHANGES AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

NEW PRESIDENT AND JOINT TREASURERS.

The Archbishop of Canterbury presided for the first time as president of St. Thomas's Hospital at the recent general Court of Governors and received a cordial welcome. Sir Arthur Stanley tendered his resignation as treasurer of the hospital for reasons of ill-health, and a resolution was unanimously approved recording the regret of the president and governors at Sir Arthur Stanley's retirement, and their deep appreciation of the great services he had rendered to the hospital as treasurer during the past 26 years.

As a mark of their regard the governors elected Sir Arthur Stanley vice-president of the hospital.

The Court approved the unanimous recommendation of the treasurer, almoners and grand committee that Major Patrick Kinnaird and Mr. Arthur Howard be elected joint treasurers of the hospital in succession to Sir Arthur Stanley.

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