

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

The Third Ordinary General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, November 23rd, at 2.30 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and amongst those present were Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., Vice-president, Mrs. M. Carmichael, S.R.N., S.C.M., Mrs. M. C. Lediard, S.R.N., R.M.N., and a fair attendance of Fellows and Members. Apologies were received from many Members for non-attendance owing to difficulties of travel.

The Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., read Prayers. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Report of the Council, together with the Agenda and Balance Sheet to June 30th, 1944, as follows, had been circulated to every Fellow and Member. They were taken as read and adopted.

THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for the year 1943-1944, we are to be congratulated on our financial position. The Charity Commissioners hold an invested fund of approximately £100,000 nominal value, and pay the whole income therefrom free of tax to the College, which will enable the Council to organise educational and benevolent schemes for the benefit of the Fellows and Members.

Additional investments in the name of the College are shown on the Balance Sheet at £463, which include £200 3 per cent. Defence Bonds purchased during the year to provide funds either for the renewal of the existing lease on the College premises, or for the purpose of purchasing other premises, when the present lease expires in 1951. The market price of these investments at June 30th, 1944, was approximately £1,062.

Invested Income of the College.

The College derives its income from the investments above referred to, and the dividends from that source in 1944 amounted to £2,789. In addition, our members have contributed upwards of £600 as their annual subscriptions, halved as their incomes have been by taxation, so that with due economy in office expenditure, we may rely upon being able to benefit members according to their needs, both for educational advancement, economic security and benevolent help.

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, it is inevitable that they will be exploited.

It is to be regretted that the normal activities of the College have had to be considerably curtailed, owing to the continuance of war, for upwards of five years, but we may congratulate ourselves that the College is now incorporated and its income secured.

Retired Members of Council.

This year the Council will lose by rotation the very valuable services of Miss E. Brodie, M.B.E., Miss E. J. Haswell, Fellows, to whom our sincere gratitude is due for the interest and support they have given to the work of the College during their term of office.

New Members of Council.

The following nominations for election have been received, as Fellows: (1) Miss Elizabeth Martin, R.R.C., Certificate, Leeds General Infirmary: Matron, Wood Green and Southgate Hospital, New Southgate, N.11. Miss Janet Kerr, R.G.N. Certificate, Eastern District Hospital, Glasgow: Assistant Matron, The Royal Mental Hospital, Glasgow. As Member, Miss D. deM. Warren, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.), Certificate, Charing Cross Hospital, London: Matron, the General Hospital, Croydon.

The experience of these ladies will, we feel sure, be invaluable in the deliberations of the Council, as they include practical experience in General and Mental Nursing and Teaching.

The Council has met constantly and kept in active touch with members, and whilst responding to every demand, has administered the business of the College with economy.

The clerical and domestic staff have attended duty daily throughout the very destructive raids, and performed their respective duties with admirable dispatch, for which the Council desires to place on record its admiration and gratitude.

College Building Seriously Blasted.

On February 18th-19th, a high explosive bomb destroyed two mansions directly opposite No. 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, and seriously damaged by blast the whole College building. A few very urgent repairs have been effected, but owing to the lack of labour, the floors above the ground floor are still unusable and await repair.

Nursing Education.

The Government's drastic restrictions on courses of nursing education curtails full time higher facilities for members, thus available grants have not been utilised.

Benevolent Grants.

A sum of £90 has been distributed in grants to nine members of the College, who had suffered from enemy action, for which they were very grateful, especially those whose health had suffered in consequence of blitz. Further benevolent grants have been made to five old members, of 10s. weekly, whose incomes have been seriously depleted by war conditions.

"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. Up-to-date medical and other literature sent for review has been donated to the College Library. 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.

The Lending Library.

The lending library is open for the use of Fellows and Members, and many technical and other books of interest have been added during the past year. Unique volumes of the lives of eminent nurses, not now procurable, are in the Isla Stewart Library, and may be studied at the College.

History of Nursing Section.

Although it has been somewhat in abeyance during the past year, we have received valuable gifts from various members.

International Council of Nurses.

Dean Effie Taylor, R.N., the President of the International Council of Nurses now located in New York, has kept in touch with our National Council 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.

The College Policy.

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

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the deaths of:—
Miss H. T. Baines, Fellow. Miss G. E. Davies, Member.
Mrs. E. M. Farnfield, Fellow. Miss E. M. Lorraine, Member.
Miss E. F. Davey, Fellow. Miss R. H. Waite, Member.
Miss S. E. Richmond, Member. Miss E. H. Allan, Member.
Miss M. T. Little, 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 Report.

The Financial Report was adopted with expressions of gratification on its financial stability.

Appointment of Auditors.

Messrs. Reeves, Gothard and Farries were re-elected auditors for the coming year.

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