

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

COUNCIL MEETING.

A meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, January 19th, at 2.30 p.m., at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair. Prayers having been read by Miss A. Stewart Bryson (Secretary), the Minutes were confirmed and signed.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

Justice for Registered Nurses.

The President made a short report concerning the statement drafted by the sub-committee, submitted for consideration by the Minister of Health, inviting his investigation of Paragraph 19 (Part III) of the Nurses Act, 1943, which controls finance, and which permits the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to expend money contributed by State Registered Nurses for the organisation of the Assistant Nurses Roll, if necessary—no other provision whatever having been made in the Act for State or public financial control.

The President also placed before the Council a copy of "The Memoranda on Nursing Organisation of the Thirty Years' Struggle for Legal Status for Trained Nurses from 1887 to 1919," which she had compiled for the information of the Minister of Health, and forwarded to him together with authentic documents.

The Council expressed to the President its profound gratitude for this invaluable service, and agreed, if necessary, that the Memoranda should be printed for publicity purposes.

Correspondence.

The President drew the attention of the Council to the fact that through knowledge of their work—through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—they had received the kindest letters of good will from the President of the International Council of Nurses (U.S.A.); the National Associations of Nurses of Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa; the United States of America, and from many eminent colleagues in these countries—Miss Grace Fairley and Miss Pearl Morrison (Canada), Miss Annie W. Goodrich (U.S.A.)—also from many friends in the homeland. These understanding colleagues inspired us with courage and hope.

A large number of letters from members were reported: (1) Thanks for financial grants; (2) Thanks for Christmas gifts; (3) Letters *re* financial help required; (4) From Miss Jessie Holmes, notifying gifts to the College; (5) Letter from the Women's Liberal Federation evading the issue under discussion, the Federation having recommended in a printed pamphlet, without any communication whatever with the British College of Nurses, Ltd., that it should join the Royal College of Nursing, in ignorance, presumably, that the former was an endowed and self-governing organisation of Registered Nurses, whilst the Royal College of Nursing admitted lay and medical control. Such ignorant and illiberal conduct of business brought women politicians into contempt; (6) Letter of inquiry *re* a Hospital House-keeping Course: reply to the effect that Mr. Ernest Bevin (Minister of Labour) had made a rule that no nurse under the age of 41 was permitted to take such a course!!!

Other letters were dealt with.

Finance.

A detailed Financial Statement was presented and several items of expenditure were agreed. It was reported that to date the list of investments for the work of the College amounted to £100,119, and securities held by the British College of Nurses amounted to £4,800.

A definite scheme of agreement with the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was adopted. It was realised that without an

independent voice in the Press controlled by nurses the policy of self-government for Registered Nurses was impossible.

It was agreed to consider the allocation of income to provide the greatest educational benefit for members possible.

It was agreed to continue membership with the National Council of Women of Great Britain.

Sub-Committee Appointed.

A sub-committee was elected to consider Sections 2 and 3 of the Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing recently submitted to the Minister of Health.

Gifts to the Royal Collection and Library.

Several valuable gifts for the Library were on the table:—

(1) "Concerning Queen Victoria and Her Son," by Sir George Arthur. This book deals with the period between 1837—the year of Queen Victoria's accession—and 1901.

(2) "Queen Mary's Book for India," in which Her Majesty sent a touching message to the mothers of India's fighting men.

(3) "The Life of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava," with portraits and illustrations, by Sir George Arthur. Presented by his daughter, the Lady Hermione Blackwood. The Marquis of Dufferin was the greatest Viceroy, Ambassador, and Empire builder in the Victorian Age, and his "Life" a great lesson to patriots for all time. The work of his brilliant wife for the women of India continues its beneficence to this day.

The Meeting then terminated, and the Council took tea in the Secretary's Office, and continued in animated discussion on various matters of professional interest.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Croydon General Hospital, Croydon.—Miss D. de M. Warren, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N., M.B.C.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Charing Cross Hospital, London, where she was later Ward Sister, and Night Sister, and at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

Miss Warren has also had the advantage of being Ward Sister at Barbados, B.W.I.; Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor at Putney Hospital, London; and recently Assistant Matron at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury. Miss Warren succeeds Miss Keys-Wells at Croydon—which is a delightful charge—where we have no doubt she will find scope for her progressive views on Nursing education and professional progress. As a member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Miss Warren was greatly missed on termination of office, and it is to be hoped that her talents will again be available for the benefit of the profession at large.

WEDDING BELLS.

Mrs. W. Mackenzie, S.R.N., S.C.M., F.B.C.N., the popular Matron of the Putney Hospital, has recently married Alderman G. J. Morris—and is retaining her office for war-time service. The wedding ceremony took place at the Presbyterian Church, Putney.

Mrs. Mackenzie Morris was trained at Charing Cross Hospital, London, and her large circle of colleagues will wish to offer her and the fortunate Alderman warm good wishes for their future happiness. Thoroughly independent and of progressive views, Mrs. Mackenzie Morris has, as a Fellow of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., shown an excellent example where nursing politics are concerned. The rare combination of charm, acumen and courage are great assets in support of any cause.

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