

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, June 14th, at 2.30 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., was in the Chair.

Prayers were read by the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., and the Minutes were confirmed.

Correspondence.

A letter was received from the General Nursing Council of England and Wales, inviting the College to send a representative to a Conference to consider the "Preface to the Syllabus of Subjects of Examination for Assistant Nurses," to be held at Headquarters on Tuesday, June 13th, 1944.

As this pre-dated the Meeting of the Council, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, Secretary, was deputed to attend the Conference, with a watching brief. Miss Bryson presented a brief and interesting report on the very comprehensive Syllabus advocated by the Assistant Nurses' Committee, presented by Dr. H. M. C. Macaulay, which covered a very extensive curriculum.

In the Preface to the Syllabus of Subjects of Examination for Assistant Nurses it is intended that the training of pupil Assistant Nurses shall be of two years' duration and shall include the nursing of men, women, and children. A minimum period of one year must be spent in the nursing of the chronic sick.

During the two years' training a period not exceeding one year may be spent in a hospital for infectious diseases, and/or in a hospital or sanatorium for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. It is essential that all pupil Assistant Nurses should receive some preliminary instruction. A minimum period of four consecutive weeks, or two periods of two weeks each must be spent in a preliminary training school or centre.

The subjects of examination are set out in the Draft Syllabus. The type of examination to be established is at present under consideration.

The Draft Course of Instruction (Curriculum) for Assistant Nurses covers 12 pages of foolscap, and includes instruction in advanced practice, which should only be entrusted, in the opinion of the College Council, to experienced nurses after a thorough theoretical and practical course of training.

Incidentally, only thoroughly educated young women could attempt to attain enrolment as Assistant Nurses under the curriculum, and it is very doubtful if such women will be content to be side-tracked professionally by the dictation, and for the benefit of, local authorities.

The Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., have this all-important question under consideration, and has decided on a practical course, so far as finance is concerned under Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, which compels Registered Nurses to meet the deficit of Assistant Nurses' organisation. It realises that the cost of administering the Roll will never be met by the guinea fee to be paid by Assistant Nurses.

National Council of Women of Great Britain.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain notified that the Representative Council Meeting would be held in London on the 11th, 12th, 13th, of October 1944.

The Preliminary List of Resolutions sent in by Branches and Affiliated Societies was enclosed. Six might be selected for consideration. The Council considered the Resolutions *separatim*, and voted to support the following.

No. 8. The N.C.W. having regard to the desperate plight of many old and infirm persons, who can obtain neither domestic help, home nursing nor nursing homes at a moderate cost, believing that the growing population of

old people . . . will increase . . . after the war, urges the Government and Local Authorities . . . to provide homes of rest for elderly people, with adequate and skilled attendance in cases of sickness.

No. 9. Humane Treatment of Animals. "That this Council, in view of the prolonged suffering inflicted upon rabbits by the use of the gin trap, and of injuries inflicted by such traps on domestic animals and birds, calls upon His Majesty's Government to discourage commercial rabbit-trapping, by prohibiting the sale of rabbits which have been mutilated by gin-traps."

No. 12. The N.C.W. urges that there shall be an adequate representation of women at the Peace Conference.

No. 15. The National Council of Women urges its members and the Ministers of the Crown and Local authorities to co-ordinate Town and Country Planning for the healthy production of food with a view to:—

1. Preserving the fertility of our land.

2. Preventing the pollution of our rivers and shores.

3. Promoting the utilisation of nature manures, seaweed, sewage, offal, etc., instead of artificial fertilisers.

No. 17. Public Health and Child Welfare. "This Conference views with deep concern the present lenient attitude of Police Authorities and Magistrates towards the heinous crime of sexual abuse by male relatives upon children and young people in their teens."

No. 21. Voluntary Hospitals and the White Paper. "That this meeting is of opinion that the proposals of the Government in the White Paper on a National Health Service, both administrative and financial, would lead to the voluntary hospitals ceasing to function and thereby cause a very serious loss to medicine and the nation."

Mrs. Lediard, S.R.N., was unanimously elected as the representative of the College, should the Conference not be postponed.

Financial Statement.

A satisfactory Financial Statement was presented.

Accounts were presented and agreed for First Aid Repairs, to be refunded at a later date.

Progress of further repairs was reported.

Further consideration had been given to grants to necessitous members, the majority having suffered from war damage and resulting ill health.

Next Meeting of Council.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council should be held on Wednesday, July 26th, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

Tea was served in the Secretary's office and several matters of professional interest were informally discussed.

CARE OF THE AGED.

We old people are glad to note that the indifference with which old people have been treated in this war—when compared with privileges provided for the young—is presumably notified. The Press has devoted space to the matter, and the sooner the veneration which prevailed in family life in the past is revived, the better for all concerned. We publish the following letter with pleasure, as the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., is deeply interested in helping to lighten the burdens of its old members:—

Hazelwood House,
52, First Gardens,
Dumbreck Avenue,
Glasgow, S.1.

The Secretary,
British College of Nurses, Ltd.

DEAR MADAM,—Very many thanks to the British College of Nurses for the kind thought and helpful donation sent to the above Home—just at a time when our funds are in

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