

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., took place at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, on Thursday, September 27th. Prayers having been read, the Minutes were agreed and signed.

The President said, before proceeding to business on the Agenda, she had a very pleasing duty to perform—the presentation of wedding gifts from the members of Council, and from herself, to their colleague Mrs. Thomas V. H. Barber, recently married to the Vicar of London Colney.

Mrs. Fenwick then presented a very fine antique silver punch ladle by R. Crossley, London, 1787, from members of Council, and a pair of antique pierced sugar tongs with acorn clips, from herself, to Mrs. Barber, wishing her much happiness in her marriage and additional sphere of work; it was well to know that the bride intended to maintain her warm interest in the Profession of Nursing which she loved.

Mrs. Barber expressed her thanks and admiration for the gifts, which she would greatly value. Later, a liberal slice of wedding cake was handed by the bride to each of her colleagues, who wished her many years of happiness.

Miss Janet Kerr's New Appointment.

It was reported that Miss Janet W. Kerr, F.B.C.N., a member of the Council, had been appointed Deputy-Matron of Fife District Asylum, Cupar, Scotland, and hopes to be able to help in the field of mental nursing once again. It was agreed to congratulate Miss Kerr on her appointment.

Correspondence.

Letters of thanks for congratulations upon their re-election to Parliament were received from Sir Waldron Smithers, J.P., M.P., and Sir Ernest Graham Little, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.P. As these two gentlemen had, on several occasions, instructed the late Minister of Health that his policy of recognising untrained and semi-trained women as professional nurses was a public danger, the Council hoped they would continue to support the demand of the members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., that the sick should be safeguarded by Parliament from unskilled attendants.

Letter from Miss Effie Taylor, President, International Council of Nurses.

A letter was read addressed to the President from Miss Effie Taylor, R.N., President I.C.N., in which she writes: "This little note comes with my affectionate regards and appreciation for what the nurses in Britain have done and are doing."

Owing to the Government having allocated berths to Miss Effie Taylor and Miss Isabel Stewart on their return to U.S.A. on the previous day, it was deeply to be regretted that they were unable to be with them that day. It was hoped, however, that they would return to London next year to promote the Congress of the I.C.N., to take place in New York, if approved, in 1947.

Many letters were read from Fellows and Members:—

(1) From Miss S. E. Wilson, Matron, Craw Road Institution, Paisley, notifying that the Taylor Committee has granted her an adjustment of salary of £50, this bringing her maximum salary to £470 per annum.

(2) From Miss M. Thurnham, Canada, who wishes to return to work in England.

(3) From Miss E. Bloomer, who is Sister-in-Charge of a factory, requiring information *re* change of organisation, etc. Many other letters were received and considered.

Benevolent Grants.

(1) Letter from a Fellow that her pension had been increased and that she was no longer in need of the grant from the Ethel Mary Fletcher Benevolent Fund.

(2) Letter from a Member whose income is only £30 per

annum, asking for help from Benevolent Fund. This was granted. Further grants were agreed.

In response to Sir Beachcroft Towse a subscription was agreed for the National Institute for the Blind.

National Council of Women.

Particulars of the Golden Jubilee Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain, to be held in Seymour Hall, London, W, on October 19th, was reported. It was agreed that Mrs. Barber should attend as a delegate.

Deaths of Members Reported.

The deaths were reported with sincere regret of Miss E. Hussey, M.B.C.N., formerly an active Member of Council, and of Miss Ella Ross, M.B.C.N.

Financial Report.

A very satisfactory financial report was received and adopted. An interim dividend of £314 15s. 2d. had been received from the Charity Commissioners; £400 had been invested to date towards a new lease; 3 per cent. had been paid on an investment of £1,000; and owing to damage of house the rates had been reduced by upwards of £100. Scholarships could not be accepted owing to Government monopoly of nurses, but it was hoped these restrictions would soon be removed.

Financial help had been available for those in need.

Statement and Petition to the Minister of Health.

It was agreed unanimously to send a short statement to the new Minister of Health on the Status and Organisation of the Nursing Profession and to invite his consideration of the same.

Christmas Greetings.

The Council agreed to send with its Christmas Greetings a copy of "Our Princess Elizabeth in Pictures" to the Libraries of the National Associations of Nurses in India, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the United States of America. This story in 52 charming pictures expresses the British people's deep attachment to its Royal family.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick Memorial.

Miss Bryson expressed herself most happy to take this opportunity to propose the organisation of a Memorial to the late Dr. Bedford Fenwick.

That the Memorial should be of an educational character, when it is realised how great was his generosity and the many years of service he rendered for the benefit of the Nursing Profession, which included his untiring efforts in gaining the Royal Charter for the British Nurses' Association and in support of State Registration for Nurses, she felt sure her proposal would have support.

She, therefore, proposed that the Memorial should be in the nature of two Annual International Scholarships for Nurses to embrace the attendance of two College delegates as their representatives at the International Congress of Nurses held every four years.

To organise a Memorial met with unanimous agreement.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, thanked Miss Bryson and members of Council for their proposal, which she had pleasure in supporting.

Next Meeting of Council.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on October 18th next.

Annual Meeting.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting be held on Thursday, November 22nd next.

The meeting then terminated.

Tea was served in the Secretary's office which was decorated with lovely flowers, where the beautiful coloured glass window has been restored.

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