

## 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, October 18th. Prayers having been read, the Minutes were agreed and signed.

### Correspondence.

A large number of letters from Members of Parliament and others were dealt with.

### Petition to the Minister of Health.

The following communication as agreed had been sent to the Right Hon. Aneurin Bevan, M.P., Minister of Health,

SIR,—At a meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., attention was drawn to the promise of the new Minister of Health, made public: "To look into permanent conditions of service in the Nursing Profession." (1) The Council considers that the passing of the Nurses Act, 1943, without consulting them, has subjected Registered Nurses to unprecedented injustice, by which under Regulation 19, their Headquarters and their finances may be used in de-grading the nursing standards which have been attained under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919. (2) Therefore, it was unanimously agreed to petition the Minister to invite representatives of the Registered Nurses Organisations to permit them to place before him their considered opinion on their own professional affairs, as they are of opinion that a profession of 120,000 self-supporting women have a right to express to the Minister of Health their expert opinion before they are compelled to conform to new rules and regulations which are now in force and to which many strongly object. The fact which cannot be denied is that owing to the shortage of nurses the standards of National Health Service are depreciated and the sick are deprived of the skilled nursing which is their right. The Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., looks forward therefore with confidence to the interest of the Minister of Health to their petition for reform.

I am, dear Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON.  
*Secretary.*

Letters of thanks addressed to Mr. H. N. Linstead, M.P., and to Lieut.-Commander G. I. C. Hutchison, M.P., were agreed, for tabling a Motion to annul the Draft Nurses' Regulations under Proviso B, Section 1, of the Nurses Act, 1943, which includes permission for the use of the title "Christian Science Nurse" to women who are not trained nurses and refuse to work under the direction of the medical profession.

A number of letters of thanks were received from members for benevolent grants, and for congratulations upon professional preference, and asking for advice on professional matters.

### Financial Statement.

Correspondence with the Chartered Surveyors re cost of repairs was considered and agreed, the Government repaying ultimately the cost of damage. Further weekly grants to members who had suffered ill health were agreed.

### The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6th, at 2.30 p.m., when the Annual Report will be presented on the usual lines and a substantial financial balance reported. It is hoped members will make every effort to attend the Meeting and the social gathering and tea at 4.30 p.m.

## THE PASSING BELL.

### ELLEN BLANCHE KINGSFORD.

The nursing pioneers who have devoted their lives to the relief of suffering humanity are passing away, and it is with sincere sorrow we report the death of Ellen Blanche Kingsford, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London—1888 to 1901—who, after strenuous public service founded, with her friend Miss Wright, a real home for little children, to whose well-being they were devoted for years.

A friend sends us the following note of the funeral:—

### The Funeral.

The body of Ellen Blanche Kingsford, who passed away recently and somewhat unexpectedly at a Nursing Home in Finchley, was taken for the funeral office to the "Home for Little Children" hard by, of which she, with her friend, Miss Wright, was co-foundress.

In the really beautiful and artistic Chapel, the glazed-brick walls of which are enriched by stained glass, Italian plaques, and pictures illustrating the Love of Jesus and His Saints for little children, Our Lord blessing them, St. Christopher carrying the Christ Child over the river, St. Francis of Assisi, the little poor man, and, above all, the Virgin Mother holding in her arms the World's Redeemer—must be an inspiration and delight to the *unwanted* little ones when gathered there to offer their simple prayers; the *unwanted* for whom the Wright-Kingsford Home was founded by these two good women whose names it bears. Anything other than simplicity would have been out of keeping in this environment, and it was a simple service, concluding with the hymn "Abide with me," that was said over the body of Ellen Kingsford.

All honour to the good women who gave of their personal service and substance to save the bodies and souls of the little children.

"Whoso shall receive one such little child receiveth Me."

Ellen Kingsford's sleep must be sweet.

## DISTRICT NURSING IN SCOTLAND.

The *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* for October, 1945, reports the following information, which is of special interest to district nurses in Scotland.

### MISS ISA HAMILTON, SUPERINTENDENT FOR SCOTLAND.

Miss Hamilton, who has taken up duty as Superintendent for Scotland in succession to Miss Dewar, joined the Institute in February, 1914, receiving her district training in the Central Training Home, Edinburgh. Her first appointment was to Wishaw, where she served for two years, after which she took her midwifery training, gaining the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland in March, 1917. Miss Hamilton thereafter served for one year at Kilchoan, Argyll, resigning for war service from that district in 1918. In June, 1919, she resumed district work, and was employed at Dunbar and Dunoon until 1926, when she was appointed third Assistant Superintendent of Sutherland, and in the following year received the appointment of Nursing Superintendent at the headquarters of the Scottish branch of the Institute. In 1930, Miss Hamilton took up duty as Superintendent of the Motherwell and Wishaw District Nursing Association, where she remained until September, 1939, when she was appointed Superintendent of the Glasgow District Nursing Association in succession to Miss A. M. Fraser. This latter post Miss Hamilton held until June, 1945, when she took up office as Superintendent for Scotland.

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