

THE FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Financial Report was adopted with expressions of gratification on its financial stability, and handsome balance.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

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

RESOLUTIONS.

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted, and it was directed that it be forwarded to the Right Honble. Aneurin Bevan, M.P., Minister of Health:—

RESOLUTION.

"The Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in Annual General Meeting assembled, wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Health to Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, whereby Parliament has broken its contract with the Registered Nurses under the Regulations of the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, in so far as its ambiguous provision empowering the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to utilise the fees subscribed by the Registered Nurses for the upkeep of professional standards, in the organisation of a class of unqualified women enrolled as Assistant Nurses.

"The members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in Annual General Meeting assembled, enter a strong protest against their money being utilised for this purpose, and calls upon the Minister of Health to have Regulation 19, Nurses Act, 1943, amended, so as to prevent this professional injustice."

Resolutions of sincere thanks to the following Members of Parliament for protests in the House of Commons against the recognition, by Act of Parliament, of semi-trained and untrained women as Assistant Nurses including "Christian Science Attendants" who do not recognise the authority of the Medical Profession:—

Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.D., B.A., F.R.C.P., M.P.

Sir Waldron Smithers, J.P., M.P.

Mr. H. N. Linstead, M.P. and

Commander Clark Hutchison, M.P.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The President reported the reorganisation of the Constitution of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

The following three delegates had been nominated, and elected to represent the British College of Nurses Ltd.; Mrs. Mabel C. Barber, S.R.N., R.M.N., D.N. (Lond.), F.B.C.N., Miss Gladys M. Hardy, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.), F.B.C.N., Miss Dorothy de M. Warren, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.), M.B.C.N.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Votes of thanks were unanimously accorded to the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to Miss A. Stewart Bryson, Hon. Secretary, to Miss Maude R. Angel and to Miss Beatrice A. Bowering, for their professional services, and for services as Caretaker and for preservation of the valuable furniture to Mrs. Broom.

The meeting then terminated.

A HAPPY REUNION.

A happy reunion of Fellows and Members was held. Tea, in spite of the Gas Strike, was served in the Secretary's office, which was beautifully decorated with gifts of flowers.

All present looked forward to active participation in the struggle for the maintenance of nursing standards already attained and in danger of depreciation by the bestowal of legal status on unqualified Assistant Nurses.

In this connection it was hoped that those present would interest their Members of Parliament in the unsatisfactory condition of the Nursing Profession, and invite their active help in its reorganisation for the benefit of the National Health.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

"Science and peace will triumph over ignorance and war. Have faith that nations will learn to unite not for destruction but for co-operation, and that the future will belong not to the conquerors but to the saviours of mankind."
LOUIS PASTEUR.

Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, General Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, is in London, having flown from New York. She intends, at an early date, to leave for a tour of Continental cities on International Congress business—as time flies—and the invitation of the American Nurses' Association to hold the next I.C.N. Congress in New York, in May, 1947, does not give too much time for the organisation of the Quadrennial Meeting as we well know.

We learn that already American and Canadian nurses are busy, and as usual are offering lavish hospitality to colleagues from around the world.

Miss Schwarzenberg will start her tour from Geneva, and hopes to come into touch with those internationalists in various countries who will, she feels sure, be eager to take part in preliminary arrangements. She hopes to return to the States by March.

We feel sure that Great Britain will take an active part in helping to make the U.S.A. Congress the success its predecessors have been.

It is now 42 years since we attended the first Nursing Conference, in Chicago (U.S.A.), which inspired us with the International idea, and from which the Nurses of the World have so greatly benefited. War has twice retarded the work of our International. Let us now once and for all substitute co-operation for destruction by every means in our power.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

We hope Miss Schwarzenberg will attend meetings of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation whilst in London, which is considering its future development for the educational benefit of nurses on a somewhat more progressive basis than that carried out at Florence Nightingale International House in Manchester Square before its demolition by bombs. The financing of the work is of the utmost importance; but we do not think this need perturb a committee commemorating a memorial to Florence Nightingale, unless the ethical standards of nursing have suffered irreparable injury from the de-grading policy inaugurated by the Brown-Bevin Nurses Act, 1943, which we, founders of the Florence Nightingale International Memorial, do not intend it shall do. Now is the time to stand firmly for power to govern our own professional standards whoever may attempt to block the way.

ARE DEATH-DEALING STRIKES LEGAL?

This is supposed to be a free country, which it is not, dozens of irksome restrictions being still in force, which should be swept away without delay.

But apparently the Government has no remedy for preventing man—or rather woman—slaughter, the result of the gasmen's strike during this arctic weather, and, of course, it is the poor who suffer most—queues of mothers after food, standing for hours, no heat for cooking or keeping clean their little children, the sick in hospitals an added anxiety to staff of all ranks, and, of course, the old an impossible burden. To be met with the reply on complaint that strikes are legal, and if they produce starvation and death there is no remedy. We advise all those who resent serfdom to let Whitehall realise a remedy must be found, if not in palatial Ministries, then from *outside*!

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