

"The Truth Shall Make You Free."

The opinion is being expressed that if this remarkable article by Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., "The Truth shall Make you Free," were issued in pamphlet form and circulated widely, it would do much to bring about true freedom.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A meeting of the Council was held on Thursday, January 25th, at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m.

A communication was received from the President regretting her inability to attend the meeting owing to indisposition (the first time during the war). The Council expressed sincere regret at her absence, and desired that this should be conveyed to the President.

In the absence of Miss H. McLoughlin, Vice-President, Mrs. M. C. Lediard, S.R.N., D.N.(Lond.), was elected to the Chair.

Prayers were read by the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson.

The Minutes were confirmed and signed.

Correspondence.

A vote of thanks to Sir Waldron Smithers, J.P., M.P., was passed with acclamation for his interest in the status of the Nursing Profession and for bringing a question concerning Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, to the notice of the Minister of Health in the House of Commons on December 14th, 1944, and inviting him to amend Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, so that fees paid by Registered Nurses pursuant to the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, should be devoted solely to the benefit of such Registered Nurses.

A New Nurses' Bill in the House of Lords.

The Council then considered a communication from Sir Waldron Smithers enclosing the copy of a new Bill intituled An Act to Exclude County and District Nursing Associations from the Operation of Part II of the Nurses Act, 1943, and Part II of the Nurses (Scotland) Act, 1943, inviting the opinion of the Council.

The Council, having considered the provisions of the new Nurses Bill, directed that the following reply be sent to Sir Waldron Smithers:—

Reply to Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P.

DEAR SIR WALDRON SMITHERS,

My Council have given careful consideration to the Nurses Bill submitted to us by you, and I am to thank you for your vigilance and kindness in doing so. Neither the nurses nor their organisations have had any information that a further Nurses' Bill was contemplated.

My Council gave careful consideration to this Bill at a meeting held yesterday, January 25th, and they see no reason to oppose its passage. It is, in fact, a consequential measure on the methods whereby the Nurses Act, 1943, was hastily, and indeed almost surreptitiously, drafted without consultation with or opportunity for the consideration of the people and their organisations with whom it was principally concerned. Indeed, nurses caring for the wounded abroad have not had any real opportunity to realise the professional and economic crisis that the Act has brought in their profession.

We are entirely in sympathy with the Provisions of Part I of the Nurses Act, 1943, that deal with the supervision of Nurses' Agencies and hold that it will be of benefit to the public. We admit the need for this new Bill, as it would be inadvisable to allow any faulty drafting in Part II of the Nurses Act, 1943, to stand should it show any

liability to endanger the freedom of action and administration of Associations which are doing service to the sick poor and which are usually subject to efficient supervision.

We regard it as a matter for regret that, in introducing this brief Bill, the Minister did not so amend Part I also in order to prevent (either temporarily or permanently) the use of money subscribed by Registered Nurses to standardise the efficiency and reliability of the State Register of Nurses, and thereby to protect the sick and (for the Nurses) their own professional status and their protection from exploitation by those of far inferior, and in our opinion inadequate, qualification.

I am, Yours sincerely,

ETHEL G. FENWICK, *President.*

Financial Statement.

It was reported that there was a very substantial balance at the bank, and that part of the cost of the repairs owing to enemy action had been paid, which it was hoped would be recovered at an early date. That the ten Ethel Mary Fletcher benevolent grants were being paid, for which the recipients were very grateful.

Further business having been transacted, the meeting then terminated.

Tea was served at the conclusion, over which members of the Council consulted together informally concerning nursing affairs.

A GREATLY APPRECIATED GIFT.

A very generous gift of £4 was sent to the British College of Nurses, Ltd. from the staff of the Metropolitan Convalescent Home, Walton-on-Thames, to provide Christmas cheer for needy members of the College.

This sum was raised by the raffle of a doll, and was greatly appreciated by the President and Officers of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., who also express thanks to Miss I. M. Stainton, M.B.C.N., the Assistant Matron, for her great interest in the matter.

The recipients of this most kind gift have expressed warm appreciation of their sisterly remembrance.

"PRINCESS ELIZABETH AT HOME."

The latest addition to Mrs. Sheridan's series of the Royal Family shows Princess Elizabeth from babyhood to her 18th birthday. We see the Princess by herself and with the Queen and Princess Margaret in various occupations. Such happy and peaceful scenes are really refreshing in the turmoil of war, and none know better than our Royal Family what war work stress and strain mean.

A copy of this charming booklet has been sent to the national organisations of nurses in the great Dominions and India from the British College of Nurses, Ltd., and is now available in the libraries of this group of organisations, where it is greatly appreciated.

The pictures presenting the portraits of dear animals, ponies and dogs, are without doubt prophetic of the "Happy Hunting Grounds," to which we should make a bee-line should St. Peter unlock the gate.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH SUFFERING FROM MUMPS.

It was officially announced from Buckingham Palace on February 13th that the Princess Elizabeth is suffering from a light attack of mumps.

Her Royal Highness is confined to her room in the country and the malady is taking its normal course.

The Nursing Profession will, we feel sure, offer sincere sympathy to Her Royal Highness and wish her a speedy recovery.

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