

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on Thursday, March 22nd, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, at 2.30 p.m.

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

The Minutes were confirmed and signed.

Correspondence.

A very long list of communications was received and considered.

Memorial Prize for Nurses.

A letter was received from Mr. Charles H. Bessell, General Secretary, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, informing the College that a decision had now been taken by the Board of Management to establish a Memorial Prize for Nurses at the Hospital, in the name of the late Miss A. M. Bushby, Matron for many years. The sum of from £150 to £200 would, it was agreed if invested provide the prizes annually. An appeal would be made to nurses and to other interested people who knew Miss Bushby, including members of the Hon. Medical Staff and the Board of Management, and would be issued over the signature of Dr. E. Bellingham Smith, Senior Physician and Chairman of the Medical Committee.

Having considered Mr. Bessell's letter, it was agreed to make a donation of £10, the gift to be repeated if found necessary.

Miss Bushby's work for the History of Nursing Section of the College was and would continue to be of the utmost value.

Correspondence with Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P.

A most interesting correspondence with Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., was reported dealing with up-to-date nursing affairs, and the President was directed to convey to him the sincere gratitude of the Council for his active interest in nursing reform, especially for his action in communicating with the Minister of Health in the House of Commons and by letter on the necessity of amending Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, and for opposing the decision of the Minister of Health for placing on the Roll of Assistant Nurses "Christian Science Nurses" who are "Faith Healers," who are not-trained nurses, and who do not recognise the professional authority and direction of the Medical Profession. It was agreed to inform Sir Waldron Smithers that the policy of the College in this connection, which he had been good enough to support, has influenced both the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the Royal College of Nursing to oppose the policy of the State Enrolment of "Faith Healers."

Correspondence with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The following correspondence with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was read:—

19, QUEEN'S GATE, LONDON, S.W.
March 6th, 1945.

To Miss G. E. DAVIES, S.R.N., Registrar.
DEAR MISS DAVIES,

I shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly let me know whether it is true that Christian Science attendants have been placed upon the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

I am, yours sincerely,

ETHEL G. FENWICK, *President.*

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.
March 9th, 1945.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

In reply to your letter, I have to state that Christian Science Attendants as such would not be eligible for

admission to the Roll of Assistant Nurses and that no such person has been admitted to the Roll.

Yours sincerely,

G. E. DAVIES, *Registrar.*

BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.
March 14th.

To Miss G. E. DAVIES, *Registrar*

General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

DEAR MISS DAVIES,

As there is a very strong feeling amongst intelligent Registered Nurses that some arrangement has been agreed by the Minister of Health which admits Christian Science Attendants to the Roll of Assistant Nurses; and as I do not gather from your letter that this fear is entirely erroneous, I shall be grateful if you will explain to me what you mean by the words "as such" in your reply of March 9th to my question. The question to which Registered Nurses have a right to a reply is: Have women who are Christian Scientists and, therefore, do not work under the authority of qualified Medical practitioners been admitted to the Roll of Assistant Nurses? As much publicity is being given to this question, a reply at your earliest convenience will be appreciated.

I am, yours sincerely,

ETHEL G. FENWICK, *President.*

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.
March 19th, 1945.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

I have received your letter of the 14th inst., and regret that my letter of March 9th did not make the position clear in regard to the admission of Christian Science Attendants to the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

All persons admitted to the Roll of Assistant Nurses must comply with the Rules drawn up under Part I of the Nurses Act, 1943. They must submit evidence of adequate knowledge and experience in the nursing of the sick in accordance with the requirements of Rules 9 and 12. A copy of the Rules is enclosed herewith.

Section 6 of the Nurses Act, 1943, provides for restrictions on the use of the title "Nurse" and "Assistant Nurse," as from such date as the Minister may direct, and under subsection (1) (b) of Section 6 the Minister may "by regulations authorise the use . . . of specified names or titles containing the word nurse. . . . It is understood that the Minister intends to permit persons not Registered Nurses or enrolled Assistant Nurses who are members of the Church of Christian Scientists and who are employed as Christian Science Nurses by members of that body to use the name or title of "Christian Science Nurse."

My Council has protested most strongly against the official recognition by the Minister of persons who have no training whatever as nurses of the sick, and steps are being taken to bring the matter to the attention of Members of Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

G. E. DAVIES, *Registrar.*

The President pointed out that the last paragraph of Miss Davies' letter was eminently satisfactory, as the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was determined to do all in its power to—

(1) Have the Nurses Act, 1943, amended, primarily for the safety of the sick.

(2) Because it had been drafted by three lay Members of Parliament without consultation with free Registered Nurses—Mr. Ernest Brown when Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour, and Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parlia-

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