

The President asked that this proposed plan be carefully studied, and any comments the affiliated associations wished to make be sent in to the National Council of Nurses by the end of January next.

A vote of thanks was accorded Miss M. Smyth, the Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, for the hospitality she had arranged for the Meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Miss Daisy C. Bridges then came forward to be introduced to the Meeting by Dame Ellen Musson, and thanked the Associations for placing their confidence in her.

The Meeting then terminated.

The delegates were most hospitably entertained by Miss M. Smyth, the Matron, St. Thomas' Hospital, to a delicious tea.

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS AND THE HEALTH SERVICES BILL.

At the Annual Meeting of the British Hospitals Association in London recently, Sir Bernard Docker made an appeal to those who had cancelled gifts to hospitals since publication of the Health Services Bill to reconsider their attitude.

"I trust," he said, "that gifts that may have been cancelled and moneys like war memorial funds whose disposal to hospitals has been postponed will now find their way to the hospitals, for whose benefit they were originally intended."

Alderman Charles Key, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, visiting Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, recently, said:

"It would be difficult to over-estimate the debt which the health services of this country owe to voluntary effort, especially in hospitals. The voluntary hospitals have rendered immeasurable service.

"It has been said that the merging of the voluntary hospitals into a single comprehensive scheme must discourage voluntary work and private generosity. But the reverse is the case. Benefactors should not be put off, for this valuable outlet for benevolence will be made more attractive by the knowledge that money given to hospitals need no longer be used for their general expenditure; it can be devoted to special purposes—to the forwarding of medical knowledge, or to the comfort of the patients, in a way which was previously impossible for hospitals which had difficulty in meeting their day-to-day expenses.

"Voluntary work, however, is not confined to writing cheques or bequeathing money. The voluntary hospitals of this country owe as much to the unpaid and public-spirited work of all those who have worked for them and in them as they do to those who have subscribed money for them. The scope for voluntary work in the Health Service of the future will be just as wide as it has been in the past. The Regional Boards, the Management Committees, the House Committees, and many other bodies will provide opportunities for those who wish to serve the public interest.

"Indeed, we hope that when the preoccupation with finance is removed and hospitals are freed from the need to collect in the streets for their essential work, the scope for voluntary service will be greater than ever before."

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, November 27th, 1946, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs. Thomas Barber, S.R.N., D.N., Vice-President, was in the Chair. Prayers were read, including a special prayer from the Chair for the recovery of the President. On rising, the Vice-President informed the meeting of the President's condition and progress.

All present expressed their desire that a message of warm sympathy be conveyed to her in her long and trying illness.

The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

The following Resolution was received from the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, protesting against the decision of the Council of Willesden Municipal Hospital to dismiss nurses who did not join Trade Unions.

RESOLUTION.

"The Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., desires to enter a most *emphatic protest* against nurses being compelled by hospital authorities and other employers to join Trade Unions.

"It demands absolute freedom of conscience for all nurses in their social and political relations with their employers.

"The Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., is prepared to support this demand by every means in its power."

The Resolution was carried with acclamation and sent from the meeting to the Chairman, the Matron, and the Nurses of the Willesden Municipal Hospital, to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, and to the Press.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A large amount of correspondence was dealt with which included letters from members strongly objecting to the very serious menace to the freedom of the individual now rampant, to coerce employees against their convictions to become members of Trade Unions!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The audited accounts and balance sheet to June 30th, 1946, showing a very satisfactory financial position, were received and adopted.

The meeting then terminated.

A COLLEAGUE WRITES FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

"I feel I must just send you a line to let you know I am thinking about you.

"I was very sorry to hear of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's accident. What a pity it had to happen! I am glad to know she is as well as it is possible to expect, but it is the end of activity for her, I am afraid. Well, she has put up a grand fight, and the Nursing Profession owes her a very *great debt*. I don't think they quite realise it yet, but they will do one of these days. . . . I do hope you may soon have an easier time in Britain. Here, especially in the towns, certain foods are scarce. Drought has played havoc with our supplies.

"If only we could have peace, I feel sure things would quickly become normal again, or something like it!

"With love and best wishes."

[Understanding and sympathetic letters from our members overseas are greatly appreciated, as they bring us to realise they, too, have the burdens of these trying and uncertain times.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)