

Authorities to contribute towards Ophthalmological Research depended.

It was clearly inadvisable to launch a scheme that would shortly be deprived of the financial support which the Local Authorities had been recommended to give it by their two Associations, so the Institute has been reluctantly compelled to suspend the scheme for the time being.

The University of Oxford's Department of Ophthalmological Research has been established and £100,000 has been collected for it by a private appeal which was financed by the National Institute.

The Institute has also given support to the Research Chair of Ophthalmology founded at the Royal Eye Hospital in London.

#### The Priceless Gift of Sight.

With the approach of Spring, when the trees come to life and the flowers appear in their glory, how thankful should we be for the priceless gift of sight, and how ready to support any scheme that gives to our blinded community the means to live a useful and thus a happy life.

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, is to take place on Friday, March 1st, 1946.

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

The Florence Nightingale International Foundation continues to plan its future activities from its new Headquarters at 45, Gloucester Place, London, W. The first fully representative meeting of the Committee of Management has been held.

An educational policy for the interim period has been adopted, the Committees are meeting regularly and the work is expanding rapidly.

A meeting of the Grand Council will be held in September, when new officers will be elected, and a new Committee of Management appointed, and the policy of the Foundation will be adapted to meet the changed conditions.

#### International Council of Nurses.

Miss Schwarzenberg, the General Secretary, has recently visited the Headquarters while in London, to make preliminary preparations for the meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses, which will be held in the Autumn prior to the meeting of the Grand Council of the Foundation. The International Council of Nurses has five representatives on the Grand Council of the Foundation, and three on the Committee of Management.

#### National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of New Zealand.

The first grant of £100 from New Zealand has been received, and the grant was donated to the New Zealand Committee by the New Zealand Red Cross Society.

#### Chairman's Visit to Czechoslovakia.

Mrs. Carter recently returned from a visit to Czechoslovakia as the guest of the Czechoslovakian Red Cross. During the two weeks she spent in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia, she visited Schools of Nursing, hospital and other institutions. She has met all old Czechoslovakian Internationals, and other leading nurses of the country, all of whom are engaged in plans for reconstruction. All were delighted to have news of their colleagues in other countries, and are looking forward to the meetings and conferences which will bring them again in touch with their friends abroad.

### 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, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, January 31st. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and Prayers having been read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, the Minutes were agreed and signed.

#### BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

##### Correspondence with the Minister of Health, the Rt. Hon. Aneurin Bevan, M.P.

The President reminded the meeting that the following Resolution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on December 6th, 1945, and forwarded to the 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 call upon the Minister of Health to have Regulation 19, Nurses Act, 1943, amended, so as to prevent this professional injustice."

#### Reply from the Minister of Health.

Ministry of Health, Whitehall.

January 2nd, 1946

To the Secretary, British College of Nurses, Ltd.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of the 17th ultimo, enclosing a copy of a Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting and to state that the representations contained in the Resolution have been considered. The Minister does not, however, see any reason to ask Parliament to amend Section 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

A. S. MARRE.

The meeting received this report with much disappointment, and realised that all political success must be based upon an honourable financial contract. This fundamental principle for good government had been violated in the confidential drafting of the Nurses Act, 1943, as Regulation 19 provided that the funds of the Registered Nurses might be used for the organisation of a class of unqualified persons under the legal title of Assistant Nurses, and at the meeting desired to send the following protest to the present Minister of Health.

To the Right Hon. Aneurin Bevan, M.P.,  
Minister of Health.

Sir,—Your communication dated January 2nd, 1946, in reply to the Resolution passed by members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., at their Annual General Meeting held on December 6th, 1945, was received by its Council with very sincere regret and disappointment.

The Council of this College strongly deprecate the power incorporated in Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act 1943, which was given no opportunity of debate when hastily thrust through the House of Commons, allocating

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