

INDIA.—The N.F.N.M. Committee of India has awarded a scholarship to Miss Saramma Verghese to be held at the Royal College of Nursing, London, for the Session 1946-1947.

NETHERLANDS.—The N.F.N.M. Committee of the Netherlands recently held its first meeting at The Hague. Miss von Hogendorp, Principal Matron of the Netherlands Army Nursing Service, was in the chair. Miss van Bennelen is Hon. Secretary. The Committee donated 700 guilders to the Endowment Fund of the Foundation. The Committee also made available a scholarship for a Netherlands Nurse to be held at the Royal College of Nursing, London, for the Session 1946-1947.

NEW ZEALAND.—The third scholarship made available by the N.F.N.M. Committee of New Zealand for £300 will be held at the Royal College of Nursing, London, for the Session 1946-1947.

SWEDEN.—Two scholarships have been awarded by the N.F.N.M. Committee of Sweden—to Miss Beck-Friis, Matron of the Red Cross School of Nursing, Stockholm, and Miss Magnusson, Assistant Matron at the Sophiahemmet School of Nursing, Stockholm—to study for six months in the U.S.A. and Canada. The plans for these students' studies have been made through the F.N.I.F. Committee of the American Nurses' Association.

#### Grants and Donations to the Endowment Fund.

	£	s.	d.
British Red Cross Society, annual grant for three years	500	0	0
Mrs. Coode, Floreston Hall, Wixoe, Essex (donation)	5	0	0
M. L. C. (donation)	3	3	0
Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Chapel Fund (donation)	3	3	0

#### Nursing Journals.

Complimentary copies of further publications have been received regularly and are acknowledged with thanks: *Nursing Times*, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, *Tidskrift för Sveriges sjuksterterskor* (Swedish Nurses Journal).

#### Visitors.

Miss Banfield, American Red Cross; Lady Owen, Australian Red Cross; Miss von Hogendorp, Matron in Chief, Netherlands Army Nursing Service and President of the N.F.N.M. Committee of the Netherlands; Miss Knottenbelt, Netherlands; Dr. Nicolai Paus, President, N.F.N.M. Committee of Norway; Mrs. V. Paus, Norway; Mrs. Willis, Australia.

### THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday, May 23rd, at 2.30 p.m., when nominations for election to the Council will be considered.

Members will be pleased to know that at last the Government has begun to refund some of the heavy expenditure occasioned by restorations from destruction by blast. Of the £500 expended in the past two years, £250 has now been refunded. The Council of the College are hoping that skilled men being released from war service may be available before long to take restoration in hand, but prefer to wait until a first-class firm can undertake the work.

Property in Queen's Gate, S.W.7, has risen in value owing to the shortage of houses in London. We had better therefore exercise a little patience, especially as rates and other expenses are reduced for the time being and all our routine work for 12 pensions is easily carried on.

### THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BILL.

Mr. A. Bevan, Minister of Health, moved the second reading of the National Health Service Bill in the House of Commons on Tuesday, April 30th, in a special address. He said the reason why a health scheme of this sort was necessary was because it had been the firm conclusion of all parties that money ought not to be permitted to stand in the way of obtaining efficient health services. He then claimed the right to use the money of the endowed hospitals for the purpose.

Mr. Law (Kensington, S.) said it was astonishing that the Minister of Health who had no administrative experience of a great Government Department, and no great knowledge either practically, or theoretically, of the subject matter of the Bill, should set his own intuition and judgment against all those most informed in the medical profession and the hospital service.

The British Hospitals Association, the B.M.A., and the British Dental Association were opposed to the Bill.

Suffice it to say opposition to certain provisions to the Bill was widespread. The debate was adjourned.

A motion by Mr. Churchill that the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House was negatived by 344 votes to 180, Government majority 164.

The Bill passed its second reading on May 2nd, and will no doubt be thrust through Parliament and become Law at an early date.

In the meanwhile it is our duty to realise the opinions of sections of the public such as the medical profession concerning matters on which they are experts.

#### The Nursing Profession.

The Nursing Profession which will be vitally affected by the National Health Service Act when in force, are taking little part in securing just conditions of service, which is to be greatly regretted. No doubt the fact that Nursing having been de-graded from a Profession to a Craft controlled by the Labour Office, has deprived it of the self respecting will power to take action in the standards of National Health.

As far as we know, The British College of Nurses Ltd., is the only organization of Registered Nurses which is working with conscientious conviction to instruct Members of Parliament in the necessity of maintaining high standards of nursing under the National Health Act.

Let us hope the group of Registered Nurses who propose to found a new organisation of nurses will arouse the professional conscience of their colleagues.

#### MEDICAL OPINION ON THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BILL.

We believe in expert opinion on professional affairs, and are often surprised to note with what assurance persons who have never practised them give their opinion—criticism they would be the last to tolerate concerning their own professions. The Law is a special offender in this sense.

We read with very great interest therefore the admirable letter on the National Health Service Bill by Dr. Charles Hill, Secretary British Medical Association, which appeared in *The Times* on April 17th, and as numbers of nurses may not have enjoyed this advantage, venture to reprint his explanatory communication for their instruction and invite them to file it for reference:—

#### THE HEALTH BILL.

To the Editor of *The Times*.

Sir,—It is stated in the leading article in *The Times* of April 11th that the statement of the Council of the B.M.A. contains no issues which justify "talk of a fight for medical

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