

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A meeting of the Council was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, May 23rd. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the chair. Prayers having been read the Minutes were adopted and signed.

### A VALUABLE GIFT.

The President reported a valuable gift from Miss Pauline Shekleton, a member of the College since its inception, and read the following letter:—

DEAR PRESIDENT,—I thought perhaps this little book, "A Century of Medicine at Padua," by Sir George Newman, K.C.B., M.D., D.C.L., might find a corner in the History Section of the Isla Stewart Bookcase. It is dedicated "To the Medical Students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on the Staff of which William Harvey served as Physician, 1604-1643." It gives the history of Padua and its famous University, especially during the years it was the Mecca of learning.

William Harvey arrived there about 1600, and was taught anatomy by the great professor, Hieronymous Favricius, for whom the Venetian Republic built an anatomy theatre to celebrate the thirty years he had taught at Padua; from whom he also received the supreme honour of the gold chain of the Order of St. Mark. John Caius, of Cambridge fame, from 1539-1541, was a friend and pupil of another great Paduan professor, Andreas Vesalius. In 1592 Galileo was Professor of Mathematics at Padua when his name drew crowds of students. Padua taught its students to learn direct from nature. In the words of Vesalius, "The study of that true bible, as we account it, of the human body and of the nature of man." And Padua's greatest pupil, William Harvey, wrote, "I profess both to learn and to teach anatomy, not from books but from dissection; not from the position of the philosophers, but from the fabric of nature. I avow myself the partisan of truth alone."

PAULINE SHEKLETON.

The pamphlet, which is in mint condition, was presented to the Council (greatly appreciated) and it was agreed that Miss Shekleton should be warmly thanked for it, and that it should be placed in the Isla Stewart Memorial Bookcase.

The President reminded the Council that Miss Shekleton took an active part in lobbying Lords and Commons in support of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses thirty years ago.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Amongst letters considered, that from Miss May Ashton, M.B.C.N., from West Australia, stated that the returned Army Nurses Club, Perth, meets twice a month, at which a small collection is made for parcels of food for Britain, and asking for the names and addresses of 12 needy nurses to whom individual parcels could be sent. To this most kind suggestion the names and addresses of members of the College receiving financial assistance had been sent, with warm thanks to Miss Ashton. The gifts include food difficult to obtain in Great Britain. Australia's sympathy with Great Britain is warmly appreciated.

Letter from Mr. Adrian Hill, author of "Art versus Illness," thanking the B.J.N. for excellent review. This book should be in the possession of every nurse as it is of unique value to the sick. It was agreed to urge its reprinting.

Letters from matrons deploring difficulties in maintaining skilled staff, nursing and domestic. Matron members of Council present reported a decided improvement in the educational and personal status of young women making application to train as nurses.

### RESOLUTIONS TO MINISTER OF HEALTH.

A Resolution on the provisions of the National Health Service Bill as it affects the Nursing Profession to be communicated to the Minister of Health was considered.

The Council unanimously agreed that a Resolution be sent to him on the following points.

1. Strongly objecting on principle to the right claimed by the Minister of Health to use the money of the endowed Hospitals for purposes of the scheme.

2. Once more appealing against Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act 1943, which empowers the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to use Registered Nurses' subscriptions and their Headquarters in organising and compiling the Assistant Nurses Roll; thus undermining the Registered Nurses status.

### THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The financial statement reported a very large balance of £6,136, owing to expert financial supervision by the President. It was agreed to give further financial support to old nurse members in need, and also to offer holidays to those unable to finance necessary change of air and rest.

It was agreed to place another applicant on the list for a Benevolent Grant, the list now amounting to twelve, and to add a gift of £10.

It was agreed to invest funds.

### EDUCATIONAL GRANTS.

It was agreed that financial grants should be donated to members attending the I.C.N. Congress in U.S.A. in May, 1947, should they desire it, from whom reports might be received.

### NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

Names were received to fill vacancies on the July election of the Council for a term of three years.

Other useful business was transacted.

### CONGRATULATIONS.

Upon the recommendation of Miss H. McLoughlin, S.R.N., a warm vote of thanks was unanimously offered to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, for her very successful financial supervision of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., for which she expressed gratitude, and thanked the Council for its consistent kindness and courtesy in connection with her work as President. For the whole seven years there had not been one discordant note in the conduct of the business.

### THE DR. BEDFORD FENWICK INTERNATIONAL NURSING MEMORIAL.

It was agreed that the Memorial expressing the gratitude of Registered Nurses to the late Dr. Bedford Fenwick should take the form of an International Nursing Scholarship of £250 to be awarded to a Fellow or Member of the College as its representative at the Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses.

The meeting then terminated.

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