

GREETINGS FROM OSLO.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has received the following telegram from the Northern Nurses' Congress, now being held in Norway:

"The Seventh Northern Nurses Kongress greets you as the Pioneer Organising Nurse of the World. Bertha Helgestad og Karin Elversson."

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE BILL.

The National Health Service Bill passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons on Friday, July 27, and, as far as the Nursing Profession is concerned, it is to be deplored that Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, remains on the Statute Book, in spite of the repeated appeals to the Minister of Health from Registered Nurses for its deletion!

Under this unjust Act, Registered Nurses subscriptions may still be used for a purpose for which they were not intended, *i.e.*, to organise a class of Nurse (the assistant Nurse), whom they do not consider should be guaranteed by the Government as efficient attendants on the sick.

It is a strange irony that this policy of degrading the Nursing standards should have been persistently recommended by the Royal College of Nursing and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

We learn that a tour of the African Colonies for the purpose of advising on prevention of blindness and development of welfare services for the Blind has been arranged.

In 1945 the National Institute for the Blind revived the Empire and Colonial sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Bernard Reilly, and appointed to it representatives of the Colonial Office. The Committee suggested a joint tour of representatives of the National Institute for the Blind, Mr. J. F. Wilson, Assistant Secretary, who is himself blind, and Miss Mary Thomas, formerly Information Officer of the Institute, together with Captain D. F. Heath, of the Colonial Office. The delegation will visit East and West African Colonies, Cyprus, Palestine and Aden, and will be away eight months in all.

The Governments concerned have warmly welcomed the proposed visits, and it is hoped that much useful information will accrue, and that advice can be given with regard to the expansion and development of existing services for Schools, Workshops and Training Centres, for the employment of Blind persons, together with the collection of much useful information having a bearing on prevention of blindness arising from eye diseases prevalent in tropical climates.

The cost of the tour is shared equally from the voluntary funds of the National Institute for the Blind, and the Exchequer of the Colonial Office.

The delegation had an official send off on July 11, and we hope the tour will be successful in its quest for the benefit of those suffering from blindness.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd. was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, July 25th. Mrs. T. Barber, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.), Vice-President was in the Chair, and Prayers were read which included a special prayer from the Chair for the recovery of the President, and of thanks that she has been so far spared.

On opening the Meeting, Mrs. Barber said how shocked everyone was to learn that the President had met with so serious an accident, and proposed that a Resolution be sent to her expressing the deep regret and sympathy of the Council. This was unanimously agreed.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

The Dr. Bedford Fenwick Memorial.

A Report was read from the President concerning the Dr. Bedford Fenwick Memorial, in which she advised that an appropriate member of the College should be invited to attend the Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses, and in the name of the President it was proposed from the Chair that Miss G. M. Hardy, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.) F.B.C.N. be invited to accept the first Bedford Fenwick Scholarship to enable her to attend the Congress of the International Council of Nurses next year, on account of her journalistic talent.

Miss Hardy accepted the honour with sincere gratitude.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Amongst letters received was one from Mrs. G. Timley, Hon. Secretary, Army Nurses' Club, Perth, stating that 15 parcels had been despatched and addressed to members of the College whose names had recently been submitted. It was agreed to send the Council's grateful thanks to these generous donors in Australia.

News from Miss Gladys Stephenson, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., that she is now on leave from China, was received with pleasure.

A large number of letters of considerable interest were dealt with.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Financial Statement, which was very satisfactory, was presented and adopted.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

The election of Members took place. The Meeting then terminated.

NEW APPOINTMENT.

MATRON.

Colleagues in the Nursing Profession will wish to congratulate Miss Dorothy de Meza Warren, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N. (Lond.), upon her appointment as Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Sheffield. She was trained at Charing Cross Hospital, London, General and Midwifery, where she was later Ward and Night Sister, and has been Ward Sister (Private Wards) at the General Hospital, Barbados; Sister Tutor and Assistant Matron at the Putney Hospital; Assistant Matron at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury; and for two years she has been Matron at the General Hospital, Croydon.

We wish her a successful and happy term at Sheffield.

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