

THE SIXTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

The Sixth Ordinary General Meeting of the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on September 26th, 1947, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Miss Helena McLoughlin, was in the Chair, supported by Councillors.

The President invited the Meeting to stand in memory of the late President, Ethel Gordon Fenwick.

The President then called upon the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, to read the notice convening the Meeting; this having been done, and Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The President then gave the following short Address:

"I was very honoured to be elected President on March 27th, and only hope I will prove worthy of the trust placed in me by the Fellows and Members.

It will not be necessary for me to tell you what a sad loss was ours in the death of our revered President, and can only say I feel the responsibility of following her beloved memory very great. In this I know I can count on the loyal support of all to keep her memory green, and progress along the lines of her life's work which was spent in the betterment of the Nursing Profession in the widest sense.

The work of the College has progressed under difficulties and has every prospect of continuing to grow and enlarge in every way.

Much benefit has been derived from the attendance of several Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., at the International Congress of Nurses in U.S.A. (I was included in these.)

The first Bedford Fenwick Scholarship was awarded to Miss G. M. Hardy who attended the International Congress of Nurses in that capacity, altogether the College spent £1,010 in Grants to the aforesaid Fellows and Members and other members of the Nursing Profession.

It gives me great pleasure to state that negotiations are in progress for the College to acquire the controlling interest in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and will, we hope, soon be completed to our satisfaction.

A Presidential letter has been drafted and sent to Fellows and Members, and it is hoped to circularise some of the recently qualified nurses in the near future to inform them of the work of the College and what it stands for.

I hope the Fellows and Members will make the work of the College known to their colleagues and bring in new members.

I wish to offer my grateful thanks to Mrs. Barber (Vice-President) and Miss Stewart Bryson (Hon. Secretary) for carrying on the work of the College during my absence in U.S.A. and Canada.

Also I wish to thank Miss G. M. Hardy for her Editorials and Articles contributed to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946-1947.

In presenting the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1946-1947, we have to record with deep regret the loss by death on March 13th, 1947, of Ethel Gordon Fenwick, who was instrumental in the founding of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was its first President from 1926 until the day of her death, at the great age of 90 years.

Expressions of sympathy and sorrow were received by the Council from Nursing Associations all over the world acclaiming her great work for the Nursing Profession, and how great the loss of her forceful spirit.

We are to be congratulated on our financial position. The Charity Commissioners hold an invested fund of approximately £100,000 nominal value, and pay the whole income therefrom, free of tax, to the College, which will enable the Council to organise educational and benevolent schemes for the benefit of Fellows and Members.

Additional investments in the name of the College are shown on the Balance Sheet at £1,063, which includes £600 3 per cent. Defence Bonds, and £200 2½ per cent. Defence Bonds were purchased during this year, to provide funds either for the renewal of the existing lease on the College premises, or for the purpose of purchasing other premises, when the present lease expires in 1951.

The market price of these investments at June 30th, 1947, was approximately £1,617.

Invested Income of the College

The College derives its income from the investments above referred to and the dividends from that source in 1947 amounted to £2,873. In addition, our members have contributed upwards of £516 as their annual subscriptions, halved as their incomes have been by taxation, so that with due economy in office expenditure, we may rely upon being able to benefit members according to their needs, both for educational advancement, economic security and benevolent help. We may congratulate ourselves that the College is now incorporated and its income secured.

The fact remains that, with our basic income, we are placed in a position of security and independence, which is only limited by the number of self-respecting Registered Nurses who co-operate for the public welfare and their own security, and it is here necessary to emphasise the fact that unless groups of working women unite, as men do, it is inevitable that they will be exploited.

It is to be regretted that the normal activities of the College have had to be considerably curtailed owing to the continuance of War for upwards of five years, but hostilities having ceased, the Council looks forward to much more active work, both educational and economic, for the benefit of Fellows and Members during the coming year.

Election of New President

At the Meeting of the Council held on March 27th, 1947, Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., was unanimously elected the new President of the College.

Retired Members of the Council

This year the Council will lose by rotation the very valuable services of Miss Janet Kerr, R.G.N., Fellow, whose interest has been greatly appreciated, and Miss Barbara G. Sorlie, S.R.N., Member, whose keen professional outlook has been much valued, and it is much regretted that we lose from the Council through ill-health, the long and loyal services of Miss Ellen F. Brownsdon, S.R.N., Fellow, who has always had the activities and welfare of the College so much at heart.

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