

New Members of the Council

The following nominations for Election have been received, as Fellows: Miss Margaret B. MacKellar, S.R.N., Matron, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, City Road, E.C.1, and Miss Margaret E. Thurnham S.R.N., Warden for Slough and District Association for Moral Welfare; and as a Member, Miss Ursula Spon, S.R.N., Sister Tutor.

The experience of these ladies, we feel sure, will be invaluable in the deliberations of the Council.

The Council has met constantly and kept in active touch with members, and whilst responding to every demand, has administered the business of the College with economy.

The clerical and domestic staff have attended daily throughout the year, and performed their respective duties with admirable dispatch, for which the Council desires to place on record its admiration and gratitude.

War Damage Repairs to College Premises

In reference to the serious damage by blast of the College building on February 18th-19th, 1944, by explosive bomb, First Aid repairs *only* have been done, and much work remains to be executed to complete the War Damage repairs of the College still necessary.

The delay in carrying out these repairs, due to the very serious shortage of skilled labour, has seriously curtailed the general activities of the College, and the Council is using every means in its power to expedite the repairs of the College building still required.

The Council has just been informed that Messrs. Maple, Ltd., have been granted the licence for the completion of the War Damage repairs, and expects daily that this firm will begin on the contract for this work agreed.

The Dr. Bedford Fenwick Memorial Founded

The Council has founded an Educational Memorial in memory of the late Bedford Fenwick, Esq., M.D., who was the initiator of Professional Status for trained nurses, and through his untiring work in support of this principle, State Registration became an accomplished fact in 1919, when the Nurses' Bill for State Registration of Trained Nurses became law. He also made it possible by financial support to secure to nurses, during their long struggle for State Registration a professional organ in the Press, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The College members have therefore organised a Nursing Scholarship, and Miss Gladys M. Hardy, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond.), the first Bedford Fenwick Scholar to be appointed, was awarded the Grant to enable her to attend the International Congress of Nurses held in Atlantic City, U.S.A., in May, 1947, and in accordance with the terms of the Scholarship, submitted for publication in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING a Report of the Proceedings of the Congress, for which the Council accord Miss Hardy warm thanks and appreciation of her very able contribution in this sphere.

Nursing Education

The Government's drastic restrictions on courses of nursing education curtail full-time higher facilities for members; thus available grants have not been utilised.

The Council awarded substantial Grants to the value of £1,010 to enable Fellows and Members of The British College of Nurses, Ltd., and other members of the Profession, to attend the International Congress of Nurses held in Atlantic City, U.S.A., in May, 1947.

Benevolent Grants

A sum of £413 has been distributed in grants to members of the College from the Ethel Mary Fletcher Benevolent Fund; these grants have been made to old members whose

incomes have been seriously depleted by war conditions and ill-health. Twelve members are now receiving a grant of 10s. weekly from this Fund.

"The British Journal of Nursing"

Through its association with THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the College has kept in monthly touch with Fellows and Members at home and abroad. As the official organ of the International Council of Nurses in Great Britain, it has rendered signal service in keeping British nurses in touch with their colleagues throughout the British Empire and in U.S.A.

The Lending Library

The Lending Library is open for the use of Fellows and Members, and many technical and other books of interest have been added during the past year. Unique volumes of the lives of eminent nurses, not now procurable, are in the Isla Stewart Library, and may be studied at the College.

All books which members have asked to be added to the Library have been procured, and are available by request through the post or otherwise.

Warm thanks are due to a Fellow on the Council for her work in reindexing and reclassifying the Library books which, owing to War Damage, were much needed.

History of Nursing Section

Although it has been somewhat in abeyance during the past year, we have received valuable gifts from various members.

International Council of Nurses

Dean Effie Taylor, R.N., the President of the International Council of Nurses now located in New York, has kept in touch with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain in the kindest manner during the past year, and is of opinion that the time is approaching when it will be helpful to resume our old-time relations.

The great International Congress of Nurses which has just taken place, having proved a magnificent success, the Council extends heartiest congratulations to the International President, Dean Effie Taylor, the American Nurses Association, and all our colleagues overseas.

The College Policy

The Council must bring the sound economic policy of the College to the notice of Registered Nurses, and inspire them to join it, so that they may defend their Professional Status when the reorganisation of nursing conditions is attempted, when thousands of semi-trained nurses now earning high salaries will be in competition with Registered Nurses.

Gifts

Our Canadian, Australian and American colleagues have shown warm sympathy in sending gifts of food and garments to help College members in our country's difficulties.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we have to report the deaths of:—

Fellows.—Miss J. C. Child, Miss C. L. Stratton, Mrs. M. O. Goad, Miss G. K. Berry, Miss M. Sanders, Miss M. V. Martin.

Members.—Miss E. Horton, Miss E. M. Bargery, Miss C. Heron, Miss Elma Smith, Miss J. R. Warr.

Their sincere interest in the work of the College for many years did much to establish it, and their loss is deeply mourned.

The Report was adopted.

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