

list for temporary repairs which were all eventually carried out. The night of April 15th, 1941, was a night of fires in the neighbourhood of the hospital. Several adjacent buildings were burnt out and at one time it seemed impossible for "Moorfields" to escape the tongues of fire. The incendiary bombs which fell on the building were extinguished by the engineering staff and by the fire watchers on duty. On the 10th May, 1941, the hospital was again damaged by blast, and repair work started all over again.

These war years were a time of great anxiety for those responsible for the management of a hospital which was situated in one of the most vulnerable parts of London. It was always a problem to decide how many beds could be kept open in the building in City Road and to know to what extent the Committee should make use of beds at country hospitals. The branch at Edgware having been closed down after a year's very useful work, it was felt in the early part of 1942 that beds outside London would be of great help and we were able to establish an In-patient Unit of 62 beds at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex. At that time, it was only thought possible to retain 55 beds in the parent hospital.

Renewed anxiety came when the enemy developed his "flying bomb" warfare. This anxiety was ultimately to end in tragedy for, on the 29th July, 1944, the hospital was seriously damaged when a flying bomb struck the cubicle wards resulting in the loss of the lives of seven patients. The damage was of so extensive a nature that the immediate evacuation of all patients and staff was necessary. It was sad beyond description to see that which had been built up over the years torn and rent asunder in a split second, especially when such destruction was accompanied by loss of life.

The coming of peace brought to "Moorfields" the task of readjustment. First there was the immediate problem of re-establishing as quickly as possible that degree of efficiency in our everyday work of which the hospital in pre-war days was so justly proud. Secondly, there was the long-term view which was rendered a little obscure because of the probable taking-over of all hospitals by the State. Full adjustment in a world at peace carried with it a conception of a Hospital Service far superior to anything which we had hitherto known. It was felt that whatever the future of the hospitals may be "Moorfields" had an undoubted part to play in the sphere of ophthalmology.

The development of this larger conception of our work came when after considerable negotiation it was decided in the wider interests of ophthalmology to amalgamate with the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital and with the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital. The amalgamation took effect from the 1st January, 1947, and side by side with it there came into being under the aegis of the University of London an Institute of Ophthalmology whose special care will be Teaching and Research.

With the merging of "Moorfields" into the new hospital Moorfields Westminster and Central Eye Hospital, we end this brief account of the Institution which first opened its doors nearly one hundred and fifty years ago.

We do not persuade ourselves that the story of "Moorfields" is a very exceptional one. We believe it to be, however, an excellent example of how men when allowed to follow the paths of peace will take up the Torch of Progress, will carry it safely through their own age, and will pass it on burning still more brightly to those who come after them. Let us remember that the Torch of Ophthalmology has literally lighted the way for hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, and in writing the story of "Moorfields," we must not forget that the measure of its success in the final analysis must rest with what it has been able to do, in each age, for those, who, confronted with blindness, have sought its aid.

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 Wednesday, October 15th, 1947.

The President, Miss Helena McLoughlin, was in the Chair. Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

Thanks were received from two members for grants of £36 and £25 respectively towards expenses of Post Graduate Courses.

An application for financial help was considered, and it was unanimously agreed that the assistance required be granted.

Correspondence.

In connection with the invitation from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, two representatives of the Council were appointed to attend the Conference to be held on October 24th, when the new uniforms for Registered Nurses will be on view, and comments and suggestions from the nurses' organisations invited.

The following charming letter from Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Director, Frontier Nursing Service, Kentucky, U.S.A. was much appreciated by the Council:

"My dear Miss McLoughlin,

For weeks I have been intending to write you, and through you, the Council of the British College of Nurses Ltd. and the editorial staff of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, to express my sorrow at the loss of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. I feel that sympathy should be sent not only to her associates, but to all the British nurses, in fact, to all nurses everywhere over the world. Mrs. Fenwick was a wonderful woman, and I feel as though I were highly privileged in having known her."

Financial Statement.

A satisfactory Financial Statement was reported and adopted.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership of the College were received and all were elected.

Election of Vice-Presidents.

At the request of the Council, Miss Elizabeth Martin, R.R.C., and Miss M. B. MacKellar, Fellows, consented to act as First and Second Vice-Presidents.

Warm appreciation was expressed for the services rendered by Mrs. Thomas Barber, D.N., who, during her term of office as Vice-President, was called upon to bear the onerous responsibilities inevitable in the illness and death of our late President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

"The British Journal of Nursing."

In connection with the production of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING it was, on the recommendation of the Nursing Press Ltd., unanimously agreed to form an Editorial Board.

The following ladies agreed to serve, and were appointed: Miss A. S. Bryson, S.R.N., Miss L. Clark, S.R.N., Miss M. B. MacKellar, S.R.N., Fellows, and Miss D. de M. Warren, S.R.N., D.N., Member, with Miss Maude R. Angel as secretary.

Finance Committee.

The formation of a Finance Committee was considered, and Mrs. Thomas Barber, Miss A. S. Bryson, Miss E. Martin and Miss U. Spon agreed to serve.

Gifts.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Returned Army Nurses' Club, of Perth, W. Australia, for a very generous food parcel.

Next Meeting of the Council.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Wednesday, November 19th, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

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