

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

In view of the very arbitrary attitude of the Trade Unions concerning the "closed shop" policy which threatened the liberty of conscience and professional independence of Nurses, it was decided by the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., that the following circular letter should be sent to all Fellows and Members, from which nurses will realise that such affiliation is but a system to enrich the coffers and obtain complete control of the individual, thus eliminating any opposition.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.,  
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.  
March, 1947.

DEAR MADAM,

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD., WISH TO EMPHASISE THEIR PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

Many members of this College have written expressing deep concern as to their position in connection with the Trade Union "Closed Shop" policy, which was clearly exposed in the Willesden Borough Council incident, when that Council attempted to dismiss their employees and nurses who declined to join a trade union.

It will be remembered that The British College of Nurses, Ltd., promptly communicated with the Minister of Health, the Willesden Borough Council, the Hospital authorities and the daily Press, strongly protesting against the imposition of the "Closed Shop."

We would remind Registered Nurses that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales (the Nurses' Statutory body) and the Ministry of Health are the legal authorities recognised and appointed by Parliament as the governing bodies of the Nursing Profession, and that under this constitution, the British College of Nurses, Ltd., stands firmly for professional independence, without the interference of Trade Unions.

It must be admitted that industrial ideology under the despotic control of "The Closed Shop" is not compatible with the ethics of skilled nursing or professional freedom, a potent fact convincingly demonstrated by the courageous action of the Willesden nurses who refused to surrender their liberty of conscience to the unjustifiable demands of powerful lay organisations.

That there is at the present time a movement on foot to submerge professional status, and only that of the industrial worker to be maintained, is increasingly apparent and the attempted classification of the professions with the rest of industry should be strongly deprecated as opposed to the freedom of humanitarian ideals and the best interest of the sick.

If these attempts to deprive us of our liberty are to be averted, we would urge nurses to rise, inspiring their colleagues, also to band together in defence of freedom of conscience and professional status, by supporting a self-governing organisation, such as The British College of Nurses, Ltd., so that the grave dangers of despotic interference in nursing affairs by powerful Trade Unions and other authorities could be prevented.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON,  
Hon. Secretary.

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on Friday, February 28th. Miss D. M. Smith, chairman, presided.

### Business Arising Out of the Minutes

It was reported that the Minister of Health has agreed the proposals of the Council concerning the award of superannuation in the cases of Miss G. E. Davies, Registrar, after 25 years five months' service on the staff of the Council, and Miss D. Dinwiddie, assistant examinations officer, after 23 years five months' service on the staff.

The Minister of Health has agreed to the appointment of 36 extra persons to the staff.

### Finance

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,900 for weekly salaries, £300 for postage, and £100 for insurance stamps, were allowed.

Estimates for stationery to the value of £274 7s. 11d., and £8 1s. 0d. for binding four volumes of Nursing Journals for 1946, were agreed.

### Registration

Applications for approval for Registration were: General Register, by reciprocity 22; Supplementary Part of the Register for Nurses for Mental Diseases by reciprocity, 4; for Nurses for Sick Children, by reciprocity, 3; for Fever Nurses, by examination 6, by reciprocity, 6. Total 41.

It was agreed that the names of 840 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names reincluded in the Register, should be reincluded.

It was reported that Miss Pearce, Miss Holland (Miss Smith, Chairman of Council, and Miss Jones, Vice-Chairman of Council *ex officio*) had been appointed a sub-committee to deal with applications for Certificates of Registration as Sister Tutors; also that Miss Lane, Miss Willis, Miss Hillyers (Miss Smith, Chairman of Council, Miss Jones, Vice-Chairman of Council, *ex officio*) had been appointed a sub-committee to deal with applications for admission to the List of Nurses.

### Education and Examination

The draft revised Syllabus of Subjects for the Preliminary Examination was before the Council for approval, which Dr. Russell Brain viewed with alarm and despondency, considering it ironically elementary. He proposed that it be referred back to the sub-committee which had drafted it. Several members of Council defended the Syllabus, and as no one seconded Dr. Russell Brain's proposal, the Syllabus was agreed.

Draft Nurse's Syllabuses of Subjects of Examination for the Certificate of General Nursing; for the Certificate of General Nursing for Male Nurses; for the Certificate of Nursing of Sick Children; and for the Certificate of Nursing of Infectious Diseases were approved.

It was agreed that the whole-time course of instruction and training of one year's duration for the Sister Tutor's Diploma provisionally approved by the University of London at University College, Hull, for the session 1947-48 be similarly approved by the Council, and that registered nurses who obtain the Sister Tutor's Diploma of the University of London on completion of such Course be entitled to receive from the Council a Certificate of Registration as a Sister Tutor.

Approval of hospitals as training schools was granted, and Pre-Nursing Courses agreed.

Miss Alexander, Miss Catnach, Miss Dey, Miss Houghton,

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