

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held on July 24th, 1947, at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

The President, Miss H. McLoughlin, was in the Chair.

Prayers having been read, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Among many communications, letters were received from two members expressing thanks for Educational Grants awarded.

The Council further considered and awarded a grant to a member to enable her to qualify for a Health Visitors' Diploma.

In reply to an invitation from the Social Medical Association to attend a Conference *re* Health Service for the People, the Council agreed to appoint three delegates to attend.

Enquiries *re* the interchange of nurses from abroad were received and dealt with.

A Strong Protest

Strong protests were received from Fellows and Members *re* the Report of the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, submitted to the International Congress of Nurses held in U.S.A. in May this year, in which the only affiliated Association of the National Council of Nurses mentioned was the Royal College of Nursing. As the Royal College of Nursing is only ONE of the many affiliated societies, this matter, it was agreed, would be more fully dealt with at a later date.

Fellows and Members were elected, and a satisfactory Financial Statement was submitted and approved.

The termination of the appointment of the Temporary Secretary was accepted with regret.

The meeting then terminated.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association was held at the Borough Sanatorium, Hastings, on Saturday, July 5th, when the members were cordially welcomed by the Matron, Miss Florence Smith, S.R.N., R.F.N., in the administrative block, where the meeting was held.

A considerable amount of business, including the election of new members, having been concluded, the Hon. Secretary Miss L. Clark, gave an excellent account of her experiences as a delegate at the International Congress of Nurses, held in Atlantic City, U.S.A., from May 11th to 16th, which she attended as the representative of the I.H.M.A.

Beginning with a graphic description of the renowned *Queen Elizabeth*, which carried them across the Atlantic, Miss Clark then passed to a résumé of the various conditions of nurse organisations and training schemes at present in force in the United States of America, by the way stressing the fact that countries the world over are faced with similar complexities (paramount among these being the acute shortage of nurses) as is the case in this country—all of which was intensely interesting, informative, and provided much data for discussion.

Every facility was given to visit the numerous hospitals and institutions, and Miss Clark was greatly impressed with the Glendale Sanatorium, Maryland, U.S.A., where they were given generous hospitality by the Matron, Miss Riley.

After the meeting, a tour of the beautiful hospital and grounds was preceded by a most refreshing tea, when the members were joined by the Medical Officer of Health for Hastings, Dr. Bruce, M.D., and so concluded a most enjoyable visit.

TWO PHILADELPHIA HOSPITALS.

During the week following the Congress, we were privileged to inspect one or two hospitals, and the two we visited in Philadelphia were the Jefferson Hospital and the Abington Memorial Hospital. The two hospitals are utterly different, the Jefferson being a large, municipal institution, arising from the centre of the industrial city—almost a skyscraper—whilst the Abington Memorial is like a lovely country mansion, laid out in spacious grounds with beautiful gardens.

We arrived at the Jefferson Hospital about 11 a.m. From the outside, which is most imposing, it is a clean, tall building—very large and spread over a huge area. It contains 775 beds, for acute medical, surgical, and gynaecological cases, and children. It contains the usual O.P. departments and clinics, and there is a large Medical School attached.

The Directress of Nurses (Miss Jackson, R.N.) very kindly greeted us and told us a good deal about the hospital before she passed us on to her assistant (Miss Ranck, R.N.), who escorted us on a tour of inspection. The first Nursing paper which caught our eyes, in Miss Jackson's office, was *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING!* Very gratifying!! It was very hot indeed when we visited the hospital, but Miss Jackson and her staff looked extremely cool and fresh in spotless and beautifully laundered white uniforms.

Miss Ranck took us up in the express lift straight to the 15th floor, and out on to the roof garden. It commanded a wonderful view over the heart of Philadelphia, and we gazed in awe on to the Statue of the great William Penn, from whom the State of Pennsylvania takes its name. The garden was delightfully laid out with green fresh plants in large tubs and cosy basket chairs for the use of staff or patients. This garden appeared as a green oasis in a city of brick skyscrapers.

We then visited the operating theatres, and the unit was really very fine. The walls were of green tiles and everywhere felt cool and shaded. Whilst operations were in progress, I noticed that the doors were open. At the time of our visit a Caesarian Section was in progress, but we were not able to wait and see whether the Little Stranger was a girl or boy!

We descended to the "Star Floor"—otherwise the 13th! This was for the treatment of Paying Patients, and each door was marked with a white star and the number of the room. The rooms were extremely comfortable though austere, and each had its own telephone, radio and bathroom unit. The charge for the rooms is 12 dollars daily, and all but the one we saw were occupied.

Next we visited a male surgical ward and a female medical ward. These general wards were lofty and the beds well spaced, but they were rather gloomy, owing to the fact that opaque glass was used in the windows to prevent people from surrounding tall buildings overlooking the nurses at their work. In many other respects, the Jefferson was very like a large English hospital; the ward fittings and furniture, trolleys, dressing and food trolleys were quite reminiscent of home.

The kitchens were most interesting and there was quite a variety of them. Many were specialised, dealing with special diets, paying patients, general ward patients and staff. Each was under the direct supervision of an expert, where the calorific values were assessed as carefully as different food values were examined. The food served to the staff was good, and mid-day lunch is served at 10.30 a.m. daily. Other meals are adjusted accordingly, so that the evening meal is supervised by experts before they leave the hospital.

We then went over to the School of Nursing and we were

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