

National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

AN extraordinary meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was held in the Nurses' Home of the Middlesex Hospital, London, on May 24th, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was called to enable member societies to make known their views with regard to the Nurses Bill, at present before the House of Lords, to report progress, and to consider future lines of action that may be necessary after the Committee stage of the Bill which came before the House of Lords on May 17th.

Miss Marriott, the Matron, welcomed the delegates to the Middlesex Hospital, and Miss K. F. Armstrong, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N., President, in opening the proceedings, said that, as everyone would understand, the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the Nurses Bill, and consequently giving the opportunity for all affiliated associations to express their views, so that a united opinion could be arrived at.

The Nurses Bill was forthwith discussed clause by clause, and in the debate that followed no opportunity was lost in recommending amendments to ensure the safeguard of nursing standards and maintain full professional representation on the committees being formed under the provisions of the Bill.

Considerable discussion took place concerning the resolution forwarded by the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in connection with their strong opposition to the proposed withdrawal, by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, from circulation of the printed Register of Nurses; this discussion revealed the astonishing fact that matrons and nurses present were not interested in the privilege won for them thirty years ago. The resolution was, therefore, almost unanimously condemned.

We cannot refrain from expressing keen disappointment that Miss Helen Dey, C.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N., so bitterly opposed the campaign to keep the Nurses' Register when she has distinguished herself over the years in her staunch support of the best interests for the nurses' professional status.

Miss G. E. Davies, S.R.N., late Registrar to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, identified herself with Miss Dey's strongly expressed opinion on this important matter.

In replying for the British College of Nurses, Ltd., Miss Bryson stated that her Council still maintained the conviction that this step, should it become law, on the plea of economy, was greatly to be deplored, as the means were there, being subscribed in the retention fees, which should have been raised to meet the increased cost of the Register, and felt sure that the time would come when this action would be greatly regretted by the Nursing Profession.

A delicious tea was then served to the delegates by members of the staff of the Middlesex Hospital.

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 Friday, May 6th, 1949 at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., F.B.C.N. was in the Chair.

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

Business Arising out of the Minutes. The State Register of Nurses.

The President, on rising, said that she was sure that all members of the Council would be gratified to learn from the report before them of the vigorous action that had been taken in connection with their instructions to oppose the recommendation of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales (incorporated in the Nurses Bill now before Parliament) to cease to print, publish and place on sale the State Register of Nurses.

Many replies were reported from Members of Parliament showing their realisation of the seriousness of this movement.

Correspondence.

Included in a large amount of correspondence, letters of thanks were received from Fellows and Members for Educational Grants of £35, awarded by the College towards their expenses to attend the International Conference of Nurses to be held in Stockholm, June 12th to 16th.

The news that a Fellow, through serious illness, was unable to avail herself of the Grant awarded to attend the conference, was received with profound regret, and it was directed that a letter of sincere sympathy be sent her.

It was agreed that a donation be sent to a Fellow in temporary difficulty through ill health. Letters of thanks for benevolent grants were also reported.

The Council expressed much disappointment that a letter from Miss Pearl Morrison, M.B.C.N., Matron of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Toronto, brought the unwelcome news that she will not be coming to England after the I.C.N. Conference as she had hoped to do, and therefore much regretted that she would be unable to avail herself of the hospitality of one of our members.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership were received and all were elected.

Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was presented and adopted; and it was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on Wednesday, July 6th.

The meeting then terminated.

Discussion over Teacups.

At the close of the meeting, Fellows, Members and their guests were entertained by the President and Council to tea, when discussions of great moment to the Nursing Profession took place over the teacups.

Then, on the announcement that Mr. Harold Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Brown, had arrived, the company repaired to the Council Chamber to hear his lecture on Children's Art.

The President, in welcoming Mr. Brown, said that he needed no introduction, as many members of the audience had already so much enjoyed his previous lecture.

The illustrations to be found on the next page are reproduced from paintings by one of Mr. Brown's most promising pupils, now seventeen years of age, who gained a "distinction" for Art in his General School Certificate. Robert Pinker is now studying to obtain a Higher School Certificate, taking Art and English as his main subjects.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)