

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 Thursday, August 10th, 1950.

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 read and confirmed.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

A letter from a retired member of the College reported that she suffers severely from arthritis, and is in dire need of a housekeeper but cannot afford to keep one. She expressed great disappointment that a new Clause to the Finance Bill, recently discussed in Parliament, which would provide a tax allowance for housekeeper in cases of certain unmarried persons, was defeated by 13 votes.

The President explained that the new Clause was designed to extend the housekeeper's allowance of £50 to unmarried persons whether male or female who attain the age of 55 years. This allowance is now provided to a widow or widower who may even be in the early twenties, but not to elderly unmarried persons.

In considering this unjust legislation, the Council unanimously agreed to take such steps as may be necessary to bring this matter again before Parliament before the next Budget, requesting that this illogical legislation be rescinded.

Correspondence.

Letters of thanks were received from home and overseas members for financial help. Among many letters considered, the Council was much interested in one from Miss Joyce Barber, telling of her marriage on July 29th, and saying that she and her husband were setting sail on August 11th to work in the mission field. Hearty congratulations and warm wishes for success in their devout calling were unanimously accorded the happy pair.

The President reported that the Lecture "An Approach to Poetry," delivered by Mr. F. Edwards on May 17th, concluded the course for the year.

The Lectures had been well attended and greatly appreciated, and on the occasion of the last Lecture it had given Fellows and Members great pleasure to welcome Australian friends from Mount Lawley on a visit to this country.

Visitors to the College.

On Tuesday, August 1st, visitors from overseas were entertained at the College to tea and to see some of the Nightingale treasures, and the collection in the History of Nursing Section. Miss E. Bergstrom of Sweden, Miss R. Wuller from Norway and Miss V. A. Brock, Editress of the Danish Journal of Nursing, all connected with the World Health Organisation, were received.

Also welcomed were three Florence Nightingale International Foundation Scholars: Miss Chacko from India and Miss Swaby and Miss Sambert from Jamaica.

These widely interested and highly knowledgeable guests from different parts of the world, but with one common link forged with selfless service to mankind, we found a delightful little company as they chatted over a dish of tea.

Financial Statement.

A satisfactory financial statement was presented and adopted.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership were received and all were elected.

News of Friends from Overseas.

A letter from Miss Jean Macdonald, M.B.C.N., sending happy news, from Cape Town, of her retirement after many years of hard work in Africa, gave us much pleasure.



Clarence Home, Rinelands.

We reproduce on this page a picture of the Clarence Home, the Nurses' War Memorial, Rinelands, Cape Town, where Miss Macdonald and 13 other ladies are happily housed. The first "Clarence Home" was donated by Mrs. Buchan in memory of her son, but that house fell into disrepair, so this new building was erected in 1948 where the rooms are large and airy, and provided with fittings so that each occupant can have her own wireless set. A beautiful large lounge has been included in the plans, and a room where these ladies may entertain their friends.



Miss Jean Macdonald, right end of front row.

To judge by the group of residents here, they are well content with this haven where they may rest from their labours and look back on the hard, but glorious, years that have earned for them this quiet corner.

Miss May Ashton, M.B.C.N., West Australia, has, in her own generous manner, sent us a most welcome gift of lovely wool for the Bring and Buy Sale, being organised to raise funds towards the expenses of delegates to attend the next Congress organised by the International Council of Nurses.

We always feel that Miss Ashton is a typical example of her illustrious country's amazing goodness to the Old Country in her time of need.

Yet again, we are indebted to her for the many long, informative letters she sends of that country, not only on nursing affairs, but of the national news.

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