

National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

A MEETING OF THE Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was held at the London Hospital on November 29th, 1951, by the kind invitation of the Matron, Miss Ceris Jones and the Board of Governors.

Miss K. Armstrong, the President, was in the Chair.

In connection with His Majesty the King's recent serious illness, the President congratulated those members of the Nursing Staff of the Westminster Hospital, which League is affiliated to the National Council of Nurses, on the part they had played in his recovery.

It was reported that congratulations had been despatched to the Royal Victoria College of Nursing in Australia on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth jubilee of its foundation.

It was reported that the request of the Association of Sick Children's Nurses that a study course be arranged, on paediatric nursing, was receiving careful attention of the Board of Directors of the National Council of Nurses.

New member associations were admitted to the Council—68 member bodies now being affiliated in the National Council of Nurses.

Election of Hon. Officers.

An election took place and the following nominated candidates were successful:—

PRESIDENT: Miss L. G. Duff-Grant.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Miss B. M. Monk, C.B.E., R.R.C.

HON. TREASURER: Miss D. Lane.

DIRECTORS: Miss J. Loveridge and Miss M. Marriott.

The President's Address.

Miss K. Armstrong retiring as President of the National Council of Nurses paid very high tribute to her predecessors in office, three very famous nurses—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Founder of the National Council of Nurses; Dame Ellen Musson, an associate of Mrs. Fenwick, for many years; and Miss Daisy Bridges who had resigned upon being appointed Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses.

The President reported that there were now 51,500 nurses in the National Council of Nurses—the third largest body in the International Council of Nurses.

The President, in connection with the List of Foreign Nurses kept by the Ministry of Health, said that they were not yet satisfied with the action taken by the Minister in determining the qualifications required for the admission of foreign nurses to this country, or for the time limit upon which nurses could work in this country without being required to pass an examination for registration.

The Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. Edwards, gave her report of the finances of the National Council; and the Executive Secretary, Miss F. Rowe, reported on the year's work in her department.

Miss Daisy Bridges presented a report on the Board of Directors Meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Brussels in August, 1951.

Votes of thanks were proposed, and the new President, Miss Duff-Grant, was welcomed by those assembled.

At the termination of the meeting a delicious tea was served by members of the Nursing Staff.

We are delighted and most grateful to receive a copy of the new "Pakistan Journal of Health."

The appearance of this splendid quarterly publication, so full of valuable information pertaining to the scientific promotion of health, on a wide scale, and embracing, as it does, most instructive data relating to Pakistan and Lahore, will, be of intense interest to Nurses, in addition to the wide appeal which we trust is in store for it.

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 November 23rd, 1951.

It was reported that a further £25,000 had been invested in long term stock.

Finance.

It was agreed that bills and claims submitted for payment, be approved and the sums of £4,000 for Cash Account (weekly salaries and Inspectors' expenses) for the month; £500 for Postage, and £9,000 for Examiners' Claims be allowed.

Education and Examination.

The following results of the October, 1951, Examinations were announced as follows:—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:

Parts I and II together	2,164
Part I only	2,482
Part II only	2,497
	7,143

FINAL EXAMINATION

General Nurses	2,670
Male Nurses	225
Mental Nurses	256
Nurses for Mental Defectives	41
Sick Children's Nurses	144
Fever Nurses	103
	3,439

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for December 21st, 1951.

London's Health in 1950.

BECAUSE OF SIR ALLEN DALEY'S approaching retirement the "Report of the County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer for 1950" is the last Annual Report which he will sign. In a foreword to the report the Chairman of the London County Council pays tribute to Sir Allen.

The Report records the activities of the Public Health Department for the year 1950 and also looks back to the beginning of the present century, indicating the principal changes in the vital statistics since 1900. Sir Allen records that the expectation of life of a baby born in 1900 was 44 years if a boy, or nearly 48 years if a girl; by 1925 it had increased to 56 and 60 years, while today it is 66 and 71 years respectively. The greatest single factor contributing to this 50 per cent. increase is the reduction in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age which fell from 158 per 1,000 live births in 1900 to 68 in 1925 and is now only 26.

Progress in the conquest of acute infectious diseases is striking. Scarlet fever caused 329 deaths in 1900 and 4 in 1950; diphtheria 1,593 and 4; typhoid fever 767 and 3; measles 1,946 and 4; whooping cough 1,957 and 30; enteritis under two years of age 3,401 and 64. Pulmonary tuberculosis killed 7,748 in 1900 and 1,225 in 1950; the non-pulmonary form 2,339 in 1900 and only 122 in 1950.

The crude death-rate fell from 18.6 to 11.3 per 1,000 of the population. If the death-rate in 1950 had remained at the rate for 1900 (and taking into account the difference in the age constitution of the population for the two years) there would have been 88,000 deaths instead of the 38,352 which actually occurred.

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