

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 Wednesday, April 25th, 1951, at 2.15 p.m.

The President, Miss H. McLoughlin, F.B.C.N., was in the Chair. Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Business Arising.

It was reported that as agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the College, the following letter was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES LTD.,
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.,
March, 10th, 1951.

To—

The Right Hon. Hugh T. N. Gaitskell, C.B.E., M.P.,
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
11, Downing Street, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

Re Income Tax Allowance.

In view of the hardship endured by elderly single women with very limited means, much reduced by the high cost of living, and suffering from disability through ill-health, it was unanimously agreed by the members of this College that the following Resolution be forwarded to you:—

Resolution.

"That the Members of the British College of Nurses Ltd., in Annual General Meeting assembled on Wednesday, February 28th, 1951, unanimously beseech the Chancellor of the Exchequer that in the coming Budget, a Housekeeper's Allowance of £50 per annum be extended to unmarried women who attain the age of 55 years, in certain cases."

Thanking you in anticipation of your consideration in this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,
ALICE STEWART BRYSON,
Hon. Secretary.

The following reply has been received:—
Treasury Chambers,
Great George Street, S.W.1.,
March 14th, 1951.

Dear Madam,

I write to acknowledge your letter of March 10th, which I will lay before the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Yours faithfully,
J. MARSHALL.

In view of the fact, that the Budget denied to elderly single persons any Housekeepers' Allowance, when suffering from ill-health, the Committee unanimously agreed to take further action.

A letter of thanks and appreciation for sympathy in her sorrow was received from Mrs. George Wates, on the death of her husband.

Letters expressing warm gratitude for Benevolent Grants were reported. It was noted that a Member offers holiday accommodation at reasonable cost for May and June, in her bungalow, at Prestatyn, North Wales

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for Membership of the College were received, and all were elected.

Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was presented and adopted.

College Hospitality.

Hospitality for Fellows and Members from a distance during the Festival of Britain, was considered.

Gifts.

From Miss Jessie Holmes, a most charming chased Silver Cup, presented to her by the wounded soldiers when she was Matron of Murray Hospital, inscribed "In recognition of her devoted work, 1916."

The Meeting then closed.

At 4 p.m., Fellows, Members and friends met for Tea and then followed a delightful Lecture delivered by Mr. Edwards.

THE DRAMA

When I talked to you a year ago on the subject of Drama I told you something of the beginnings of the Classical Drama of the Greeks. This afternoon I am going to say something about the beginnings of drama in our own country.

Perhaps some of you will remember that in my earlier talks I laid particular stress upon the close association that has always existed between what I called the religious and dramatic urges in mankind; and I told you something of the way in which the Greek drama evolved from dances both solemn and merry which were performed in honour of the god Dionysius. Well, in a way that was rather similar the dramatic instinct came to the assistance of the Christian Church to give the emphasis of movement and spectacle to some of the most important of the Christian Festivals.

I expect most of you have seen a crib in a church at Christmas time. If you have, you will have seen the survival of one of the oldest of all attempts to give a semblance of physical reality to a Biblical story. It is not quite dramatic of course, but it does transfer story into spectacle, which is one of the things that drama is supposed to do.

It was during the great Festival of Easter, however, that the first important steps were taken in the dramatisation of Biblical narrative. The development began with the symbolic burial of the Crucifix on Good Friday. Usually the Crucifix was removed from its position either above or within the chancel and deposited in a recess in the chancel wall known as the Sepulchre. Here it remained until Easter Day when with the utmost solemnity it was restored to its former place. This ceremony of course symbolised the burial and the resurrection of Christ, and in due course it received the embellishment of dramatic action and dialogue. At some period between 959 and 979 Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, drew up the following directions for the carrying out of the ceremony:—

"While the third lesson is being chanted, let four brethren vest themselves. Let one of these, vested in an alb, enter as though to take part in the service, and let him approach the sepulchre without attracting attention, and sit there quietly with a palm in his hand. While the third respond is being chanted let the remaining three follow, and let them all, vested in copes, bearing in their hands thuribles with incense and stepping delicately as those who seek something, approach the sepulchre. These things are done in imitation of the angel sitting in the monument and the women with spices coming to anoint the body of Jesus. When therefore he who sits there beholds the three approach him like folk lost and seeking something, let him begin in a dulcet voice of medium pitch to sing *Quem quaeritis*. . . ."

The followed this dialogue:—

Angel: Quem quaeritis in sepulchro, o Christicolae.

Whom seek ye in the tomb, O followers of Christ?

Three Maries: Jesum Nazarenum crucifixum, o caelicolae.

Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified, O heavenly ones.

Angel: Non est hic, surrexit sicut praedixerat.

He is not here, for he is risen as he said.

Ite, nuntiate quia surrexit a mortuis.

Go now, and tell that he has risen from the dead.

Then the Three Maries turned to the choir and cried out joyfully,

Alleluia! surrexit Dominus.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen.

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