

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

It is with sincere satisfaction that we can report that the British College of Nurses has been open and at work since the declaration of war. The office is open to members from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The President attends daily, and is pleased to welcome and help any member who needs advice.

Miss Bryson is generously giving voluntary help in the office from time to time, and Mrs. Jessop, Miss H. Hawkins and Miss Gooding have continued without intermission their voluntary service in the office of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; and when we realise that this help means travelling during the "black-out," we owe sincere gratitude to our disinterested friends.

The Council Meeting.

A Council Meeting will be summoned to meet on Saturday, February 3rd, at 2 p.m. We realise how difficult it is for those members scattered around to attend meetings, but shall hope for a quorum, as there is important business to transact. We shall all need to pull together to prevent disintegration of nursing standards, and in consequence the sacrifice of human life during and after the war.

The Passing of the First Vice-President.

At the inauguration of the British College of Nurses 13 years ago, Miss Margaret Breay was offered and accepted the honour of first Vice-President for life—in recognition of her unique service to the Nursing Profession. With her death the College suffers an irreparable loss. No further life appointments will be in order.

Christmas and New Year Greetings.

Christmas and New Year brought a shower of generous greetings and lovely cards from many parts of the world—all sincerely appreciated. One gift sent by Miss Pearl Morrison, from Toronto, is very deeply valued. It is the Royal Visit Number of the *Canadian Geographical Journal*, the story it contains written by Gustave Lanctot.

The journal is illustrated by the most beautiful and life-like pictures of the King and Queen, of the ceremonies in which they took part, and of the magnificent scenery and buildings which make Canada one of the most glorious countries in the world. Indeed, if the energy of its people continues to embellish its natural splendour what old country over-populated and desecrated can hope in the future to compete with it?

This beautiful gift has been carefully wrapped in tissue paper and placed amongst the (now hidden) Royal mementoes in our History Section.

Surely history and geography should be taught in our schools from such vivid pictorial publications.

The Royal Christmas Card.

It was with sincere regret that we learned that the King and Queen were not this year issuing a Christmas card available to the public. So, for the first time for many years, we were unable to send it with greetings to all the members of the British College in the Dominions, Colonies and India.

The Calendar Fund.

Owing to the generosity of Miss Isabel Macdonald, a number of the Members of the College have received a Christmas gift from the profit on her beautiful Calendar for 1940, "Candles." The Calendar is, as in former years, published with the purpose of sending to over two hundred sick and aged nurses cheques for comfort and cheer at Christmas-time. The letters of gratitude received express the pleasure of recipients for remembrance by their colleagues and undoubtedly adds to their happiness of Christmastide. One writes: "I went to the pantomime." Good! We hope it was full of fun.

The Policy of the College.

The British College of Nurses was founded in support of the highest efficiency in the care of the sick, which can only be attained after ceaseless practice in the art and science of nursing. Since the declaration of war, the determined exclusion of recognised Registered Nurses' organisations from participation in the work of the Civil Nursing Reserve, by the Ministry of Health, and the mischievous interference of untrained members of the laity, male and female, have naturally resulted in appalling muddle and inefficiency.

It is well that the indignation expressed by representatives of the British College and other Nurses' organisations has at last awakened the Ministry to the fact that further delay in putting its nursing house in order so far as the Fighting Forces are concerned, will in all probability arouse the same burning indignation in the House of Commons, when it reassembles, as that produced by Mr. Roebuck, M.P., in 1854, when he demanded an Enquiry into the care of the sick and wounded in the Crimea, destroyed Lord Aberdeen's Government, and sent Florence Nightingale to the salvation of the sick and wounded dying like flies at Scutari.

The supposition that untrained women of all classes are qualified to be posted to first aid stations after a few days' instruction in hospitals must be exposed and resisted by every qualified nurse who recognises the rights of stricken humanity to skilled handling at the earliest possible moment, and we feel sure we voice the convictions of every member of the College in this particular.

We learn that the future training and status of Nurses is *sub rosa* being considered by the powers that be, and we earnestly warn members of the Profession that it is their duty to acquaint themselves with the tactics of politicians and employers in high places and insist upon retaining the honourable status granted to them by the late King under the Nurses' Registration Acts, 1919.

Self Denial If Needs Be.

At whatever sacrifice we hope that members of the British College of Nurses will support it financially during the emergency, so that its distinctive work, not only for our profession, but for our dear country and its splendid defenders, may receive all our devotion day and night if needs be.

Let us take counsel how we may deny ourselves for the common good.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)