

NURSING ECHOES.

On Friday, July 7th, the delegates of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, home from Copenhagen, entertained Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to a very festive little Dinner at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., and reported the great success of their mission, and all expressed the opinion they did not wish to wait till 1925 before further international amenities, and hoped an Interim Conference might be held.

Miss H. L. Pearse, who was in the chair, in proposing Mrs. Fenwick's health, spoke warmly of her international work for Nursing, and, in reply, Mrs. Fenwick touched on the wonderful results already apparent from the Federation of the Trained Nurses of the world. This was the more marked during the War, when the nurses of all nations poured out their skill and devotion for the sick and wounded throughout Europe. The nurses of the British Empire and the United States of America had come into close sisterly touch, and would keep closely united in the great struggle to prevent disease and raise the standard of the world's health.

Miss Olmsted, the charming Chief of Division of Nursing, League of Red Cross Societies, who was an honoured guest, spoke from wide experience during and since the war. She had a fascinating tale to tell of her sphere of activities radiating from Geneva. It was good to hear that already the entries for the next International Course of Training for Public Health Nurses are nearly double those of the present Course (just terminated at Bedford College), and that the class will include students from Turkey, Spain, and Iceland. So the good work extends.

The Dinner was excellent, and was thoroughly enjoyed. Lovely red roses and fruits made a charming table decoration.

The Women's Exhibition is now open at Olympia from July 12th to 29th, and much of interest is to be seen. The Nursing Section will no doubt attract the attention of our profession, and should help to instruct the general public, so ignorant and apathetic where *skilled* nursing is concerned, and so cocksure they know all about it.

Miss Alice Cattell, member of the General Nursing Council, who is in daily touch with Private Duty Nurses, has interested herself upon their behalf on the question of the Regis-

tered Nurse's Uniform, and at the last meeting of the Council addressed a question to the Chairman of the General Nursing Council on the matter, which is becoming urgent. It is now a year since the Rules were signed, and so far the question is still under consideration. It is high time the Registration Committee, from which those members really interested in the question have been eliminated, hurried up and made it possible for Registered Nurses to enjoy a distinctive protected uniform, and let us hope it will be *distinctive* and becoming.

We have received several letters from Registered Nurses on the question of the Badge. They all urge that it should not have any resemblance to others, so that the State badge may be recognised at a glance. The suggestion of a pierced silver badge they fear may be mistaken for that worn by Queen's Nurses, and as many Queen's Nurses are Registered Nurses they also would prefer a design which does not clash with their own. The R.B.N.A. Badge is by far the most charming design, and carried out in white, red and blue enamel on silver, with "D" in centre for diploma, with its deep crimson ribbon and bar, for those who pass its examination, it is quite a work of art. The G.N.C. Badge should rival it in beauty.

The Hospital Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, which controls our large Metropolitan Fever Hospitals, are setting a wise example to the Ministry of Health as a whole. In a recent report to the managers it was stated that the Committee had had before them a return showing that only a small proportion of the Board's Nurses who are *prima facie* qualified to be registered under the State scheme had actually become so registered. The Committee had therefore prepared a notice calling attention to the registration system now in existence and pointing out the advantages of registration, and the Committee were taking steps for a copy of this notice to be sent to every Nurse in the Board's service. The Committee had also arranged that in future all forms of application for nursing appointments under the Board should contain an inquiry as to whether the applicant was a Registered Nurse.

We have evidence before us that many Fever Nurses object to place their names on a Supplementary Register, but for their own protection in the future, they will be well advised to do so.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)