

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W., on Saturday, July 21st, at 2 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members of the Council were present: Miss M. Breay, Vice-President; Miss Mary G. Allbutt, Mrs. Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Mary S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss S. A. Villiers, Fellows; and Miss Kathleen Latham, R.R.C., Member.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., the Minutes were confirmed.

Miss K. M. Latham, Member, attended the Council for the first time. She was welcomed by the President who shook her cordially by the hand and expressed gratification that for the future the Council would have a representative of a new branch of work, Industrial Nursing, at the Board. The President looked forward to expert information in the progress of this indispensable development in the preservation of public health.

Miss Latham in reply expressed her pleasure in having been appointed a member of the Council and said that she should endeavour to acquire useful knowledge of the progress of industrial nursing.

### Business arising from the Minutes.

#### THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS BY THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

In further correspondence with the Registrar on the above question the following question had been asked: "My Council will be obliged if you will inform it if this correspondence, addressed to the General Nursing Council, has been submitted to it, and if so, why no direct reply has been received from the Council at this office."

The letter had merely been acknowledged by Miss M. S. Riddell, and no further information was available.

The opinion was expressed that no official or Committee had the right to suppress important correspondence from a body of Registered Nurses addressed to the General Nursing Council, their statutory Governing Body, entirely financed by Registered Nurses.

### Correspondence with the Ministry of Health.

#### THE EXCLUSION OF REPRESENTATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE WORKING OF THE MIDWIVES ACTS.

Further Correspondence with the Ministry of Health was reported on the question of the representation of Registered Nurses on the Departmental Committee to consider the working of the Midwives Acts, 1902 to 1926, with particular reference to the training of Mid-

wives, and the conditions under which Midwives are employed.

In a letter from the Council to the Minister of Health dated July 18th, the claim of the Nursing Profession to be represented on the Committee was again placed before him: "My Council feel very strongly that such an appointment should be made and still hope that the Minister of Health will be good enough to take their request into consideration."

To which the following reply, dated July 20th, had been received from the Secretary: "In reply to your letter of the 18th inst. I am directed by the Minister of Health to state that he regrets that he must adhere to the decision in his letter of June 6th."

The President explained that the refusal of the Minister of Health to recognise the vital importance of trained Nursing in the training of Midwives, and the right of the Nursing Profession to be represented on the said Departmental Committee, proved the ignorance of his Department of the vital importance of skilled Nursing

in the care of prospective mothers—and during childbirth. She expressed the opinion that such indifference could only be overcome by publicity, and suggested means by which an intelligent interest in this all-important matter—dealing as it does with the high mortality of the mothers of the nation—might be aroused.

The Departmental Committee is composed of medical practitioners, one midwife, and women of social influence, to which Mrs. Barton had been added upon the urgent demand of the Women's Co-operative Guild.

Whilst ignoring the representation of the Nursing Profession, the Chairman of the Committee had invited Nursing Organisations to prepare exhaustive Statements dealing with the references to the Committee, which valuable expert

information would presumably be considered for Report by a body from which Nursing expert opinion had been excluded.

Moreover, the President pointed out that women, including Registered Nurses, equally with men were highly taxed to maintain very costly State Departments and Departmental Committees on women's work, and that as thousands of registered nurses would vote at the forthcoming Parliamentary Election, the College would be well advised to place before the Legislature and the profession a National Health policy.

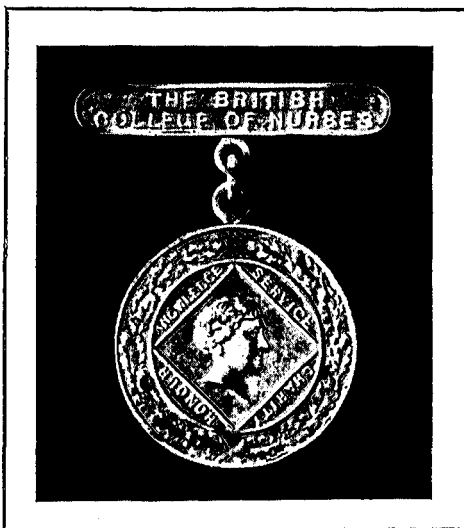
This recommendation was approved.

### The Badge.

The design for the Badge was finally agreed to be made in silver. Price 7s. 6d. each, to be obtained shortly from the Secretary at Headquarters.

### Correspondence.

A very large number of letters had been received. From Mrs. Strong, consenting to act in an advisory position in Scotland as Consul General.



THE BADGE OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

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