

of the First Council, who had been very desirous of being present to present the Badge, but at the last moment was unavoidably prevented from coming by a personal bereavement.

In her absence, Miss Macdonald spoke with warm appreciation of the work of the President for the organisation of the Profession of Nursing, and particularly of that in connection with the foundation of the British College of Nurses, which was meeting the needs and fulfilling the aspirations of trained Nurses in so wonderful a way.

She expressed the hope that Mrs. Fenwick might long be spared to wear the Badge which bore with it the affection and good will of the Council, and said that whenever she did so it would be a source of gratification to its Members.

The President expressed in a few gracious words how greatly honoured and touched she was by this beautiful gift, which she would wear with pride and much appreciation of the kindness of the First Council.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for October 27th, at 2 p.m., and the meeting then terminated.

THE COLLEGE BADGE.

We desire to notify Fellows and Members that the College Badge in silver is now ready, and can be obtained from the Secretary, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, price 10s., inscribed on the back with name and number, and registered. The many B.C.N. Badges seen about Rome during the recent meeting of the International Tuberculosis Congress, were greatly admired.

THE NEW SESSION.

Reception and Tea.

The New Session will open on October 26th, with a Reception and Tea, to which Fellows and Members are cordially invited. Tea will be from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m., after which Reports from the representatives of the College at the International Congress on Tuberculosis in Rome will be presented and discussed. This should be a very interesting occasion, and we hope many Fellows and Members will make a point of keeping the afternoon free.

FIXTURES FOR OCTOBER.

The first of a Course of Six Lectures on Gynæcology by Miss Gertrude Dearnley, M.D., will take place on Thursday, October 18th, at 6.30 p.m. and these lectures will be continued weekly on the following Thursdays.

FIXTURES FOR NOVEMBER.

During November, three Lectures on Encephalitis Lethargica will be given by Dr. Worster Drought, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

Two Lectures on Venereal Disease during the same month are also being arranged, dates and time to be announced later.

A Lecture on the Equal Franchise Act and the Nurse's Duty of Recording Her Vote is also being arranged for November.

LECTURES IN 1929.

Subjects suggested for Lectures early in the New Year are: "Tropical Diseases," "Hints to Nurses on Private Nursing," "Re-education of the Muscles," "Rheumatism in Children," and "Infectious Diseases."

MY THREE ASPIRATIONS.

For half a century I have longed to visit Rome, and the kind invitations sent to me many times by my old friend, Miss Dorothy Snell, the late Princess Doria, and Donna Maria Maraini, the founders of that admirable Nursing School, the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena, have always had to be refused with sincere regret.

At last the psychological moment seemed to have arrived, in connection with the International Congress on Tuberculosis, and I realised it was now or never if I was ever to see the most glorious city on earth.

The group from the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain has taken part in this visit to Italy, of which just a glimpse can be given in *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*.

My three chief aspirations were, whilst in Italy (1) To visit the birthplace of Florence Nightingale in Florence; (2) To come into personal touch with the great Mussolini; and (3) To have an Audience of His Holiness the Pope. I will just tell you in a few simple words how these three aspirations were happily achieved.

BIRTHPLACE OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE. THE VILLA COLUMBAIA, FLORENCE.

You will read in another column of our never-to-be-forgotten visit, as the guests of the Rev. Mother of the Little Company of Mary to the Villa of San Girolamo, gloriously placed at Fiesole above Florence, a residence of such loveliness and peace that verily it would seem quite possible that we were just without the Gates of Heaven.

Our expressed wish to find the Villa Columbaia, the birthplace of Florence Nightingale, was most sympathetically received, and one afternoon we set out in charge of Sister Alacoque in the spirit of reverent pilgrims in search of the Villa. When we at length located it, we found that it bore no distinguishing mark, and in appearance from the street, with its straight front and jealousies, was much as other villas of the wealthy classes in Florence.

A ring at the bell brought the butler to the door, who, to our bitter disappointment, informed us that his mistress was not at home, and, in her absence, he obviously could not admit us.

We were turning away (intending to return) when, at the psychological moment, a car drove up containing a lady and her daughter, most happily known to Sister Alacoque, who informed the lady, who proved to be the wife of the owner of the villa, of our identity, and how privileged we should be to be permitted to enter the birthplace (a hundred years ago), of the Patron Saint and Lawgiver of the Nursing Profession. Nothing could have been more charming than our welcome by Mrs. Ernest Foster, whose husband, an American, acquired the villa a year ago, and who realised, in a most sympathetic spirit, that the Villa Columbaia was a shrine which might be held in reverence and honour by the nurses of the world. In a few minutes Mrs. Foster had welcomed us into the magnificent hall, paved with grey and white Carrara marble, and, in the most gracious manner, was giving us the opportunity of seeing this lovely villa. She told us its recent history, that it had been vacant for fifteen years, that at the

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