

## Coming Events.

*Nov. 1st.*—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association at the offices of the Corporation, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., 5 p.m.

*Nov. 1st.*—Reception at the Westminster Hospital by the President, the Duke of Westminster, to the governors, subscribers, and friends, 3 to 5 p.m. Organ recital by Dr. Bridges.

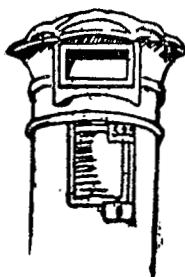
*Nov. 5th.*—Meeting of the Committee of the Registered Nurses' Society at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., at 5 p.m.

## Appointments.

MISS EMMIE LOFTS has been appointed Matron of the Lewisham New Infirmary. Miss Lofts entered the Training School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in April, 1889, and after three years' training passed the Final Examination with distinction, and was awarded a certificate. In 1893 Miss Lofts was appointed to the position of Night Superintendent at the Chelsea Infirmary, of which institution she is at present the Assistant Matron. We announce this appointment with great pleasure, knowing that the professional promotion of Miss Lofts has been entirely the reward of personal merit and devotion to duty. Our congratulations to her are therefore the more sincere.

## Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)



*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

### QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR TRAINED NURSES.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—Kindly allow me to correct a statement re "Queen's Badges," given in the very interesting description of the Nursing Exhibition at the Midwives' Institute in issue of 26th. The bronze badges are for all Queen's Nurses, the silver and gold are only given at the discretion of the Council.

Yours truly,

PAULINE PETER.

October 27th, 1895.

### COUNTY COUNCIL LECTURERS.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—I am glad that a discussion has again been opened in the RECORD on this all-important subject, because although the matter has frequently been dealt with by you, no settlement has been come to, and incompetent, half-taught Lecturers continue to flood the country with their mischievous teaching.

That wide-spread dissatisfaction with the present grade of Nurse-teachers exists is evidenced by the strong feeling expressed at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Nottingham by many well-known women who are qualified to judge. Dr. K. M. Hunter, Lecturer on Hygiene to the London County Council, spoke of the low standard of training and education of so-called "health" teachers, and advocated the highest possible curriculum for lecturers. She did not hesitate to condemn in very certain tones the proposal of a Society to fill up the year or so of waiting some young women have to endure before entering Hospital to train as Nurses, by employing these necessarily ignorant young persons as *Professors and Teachers of Nursing*, when confessedly they are not even Probationers!

Dr. Hunter said in the first instance, when County Councils began to employ the Technical Education grant, there was money to be made, and novices rushed in without practical or technical knowledge, donned attractive uniforms, and went about the country ignoramuses in learned disguise. She instanced a case of one of these sham Lecturers insisting to a village audience that they should all sleep with their windows open, giving no exceptions or precautionary measures. One poor old lady of 70, believing it was never too late to mend a bad habit, straightway went home, opened her bedroom window, and developed pneumonia!

She was able to attend no more of these "Lectures" (save the mark!), but that, I think, was to her a great advantage. Had she attended the course there is no knowing how many diseases she might not have acquired as a result of following too closely the teachings of such "quacks."

I have followed the correspondence on this subject throughout, but I want to see some action taken in the matter. Some organised and concerted plan should be the outcome of all this dissatisfaction, and it appears to me that official representations should be made to all the County Councils, advising them to inquire into the antecedents and training of their "Health and Nursing teachers."

Believe me, sincerely yours,  
A WOMAN WORKER.

### SHAM NURSE LECTURERS.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—I am a Nurse, I have had some experience in County Council lecturing, and am interested in other lecturers, whether working on their own account or connected with Institutions. So, some time back, I was pleased to accompany a friend to a conversazione given by a Society in London that trains lecturers. I was amongst strangers, but my friend knew nearly everyone, and she assured me that in the large assembly of women in Nurses' uniform, there were only three who had undergone training. One was the Matron of an Infirmary, who wore a velvet dress and a cap; another wore a brown robe relieved with white, resembling a nun's dress but not a Nurse's; and the third was not in uniform. It struck me as curious that only the sham Nurses wore the regulation uniform of the Society. I was amongst strangers, as I have said, and when there was no singing nor recitation going on, I had to be content with watching my neighbours and hearing scraps of conversation. And these young—though not all of them were young—women were full of the first few courses of lectures they had given, and were talking volubly of the way they had not shrunk from lecturing on First Aid and on Nursing, and how they had evaded pitfalls and dangers. One rather bright-looking girl was talking by me, as I took some coffee, to one of the Society's lecturers and examiners—I doubt if I caught his name properly—about her lecture on burns apparently, for she was just saying:—"I told them to put whiting on the burns, and a woman asked me how it was to be put on—in powder or wet? I did not know, I don't know, what whiting is, so I mumbled something, and went on about something else. How ought the whiting to be put on?" It was said in a loud voice, there was nothing confidential

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)