

Coming Events.

April 19th.—Primrose Day.

April 21st.—Royal Eye Hospital Banquet, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, 7 p.m.

April 22nd.—Anniversary Festival of the British Orphan Asylum, at the Whitehall Rooms. The Right Hon. Lord Rothschild in the chair.

April 23rd.—Grosvenor Club—Ladies' Night. Entertainment in aid of Siddons House Home Hospital, 9.30 p.m. A large number of distinguished operatic and dramatic artists have tendered their services.

Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, "Facial Expressions," Sir James Crichton Browne, M.D., 8 p.m.

April 25th.—French Hospital—Anniversary Dinner at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, 7 p.m.

April 27th.—Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, opens the Universal Cookery and Food Exhibition at the Imperial Institute.

The St. Pancras Nursing Fund Banquet at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

April 30th.—Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council, Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 3 p.m.

Conference—"The British Produce League." Paper by Mrs. Alec Tweedie, 8.30 p.m.

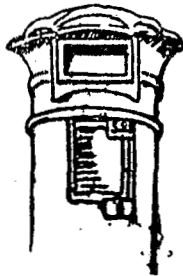
Notice.

THE NURSING EXHIBITION.

THE dolls for the Uniform Competition can be obtained from H. Ellis, 20, Lowther Arcade, price 1s. 6d. (See advertisement, page iv.)

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.

THE OPERATING THEATRE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am interested in "A Theatre Sister's" question, because several changes have taken place in the management of the operating theatre during the time in which I have been Matron of this Hospital. We have upwards of 300 beds, and great numbers of operations take place in the year. Formerly there were two Sisters, whose duties were to have charge of the theatre—one taking all the male operations, the second all the female opera-

tions—and it was the duty of the staff Nurses of their respective wards to help with all operations. If the operations came from wards for which these two Nurses were not responsible, the Nurse of that ward brought the patient to the chloroforming room, and returned in due time to accompany him back to his ward. Now whatever were the advantages of this system—and, of course, the permanent responsibility, night and day, of these two Sisters for everything in the theatre had certain advantages of organisation—it cannot be denied that, as an educational system for the majority of the Nurses and Probationers, it was very faulty, as every Nurse working in a surgical ward not attached to the theatre never had the opportunity of seeing and attending at major operations, and thus was deprived of one of the most necessary and valuable details of her training. Of late years, beneficial changes have been effected; thus, two theatre Nurses have been appointed; these are women who have gained their three years' certificate. The Sister of the ward from where the operation comes accompanies her patient to the theatre, bringing all necessary dressings, splints, &c., with her, and she brings with her also one Probationer—the staff Nurse of the ward taking charge in her absence, and preparing everything in an efficient manner for the reception of the patient. This we have found a most satisfactory system; the Sister sees what has been done to the patient under her care, thus knowing what will be necessary to do for his future safety. The Probationer is thus enabled to gain most necessary experience, and the daily routine of the work in the theatre is well organised by the two permanent trained Nurses. Our medical staff are well satisfied with this arrangement, and it certainly works well all round. Very great care is taken by the theatre Nurses concerning the cleanliness of the operating Theatre, and they wear a white linen costume and white tennis shoes, which can be sterilised—our medical staff themselves setting the valuable example of wearing washing theatre costumes; so that the "wily microbe" has no abiding place with us.

Yours truly,
SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In this Hospital, which is in a busy town where there are numerous accidents, our system of managing the operating theatre is good. The Matron usually attends all operations, herself acting as theatre Sister, and the staff Nurse of the ward from where the operation comes attends with the case. A Nurse is also attached to the theatre for a term of three months, and is, during that time, personally responsible for perfect order, cleanliness, and preparation. By this means the Matron gains a personal knowledge of the ability and work of each Probationer in the Hospital, and she is thus able to help and teach those who show talent for surgical work, and to weed out those who do not possess it. Of course, in a Hospital of over 100 beds, this constant personal supervision of the Matron may not be possible, but it is the very best system in our smaller Hospitals, and has most excellent results, both for patients and pupils.

Yours sincerely,
A SURGICAL SISTER.

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