

Coming Events.

May 29th.—The Duchess of Albany will open a Fancy Fair in aid of the Re-endowment Fund for Guy's Hospital, at Shortlands, Kent.

June 1st.—Opening of the Nursing Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall, 2.30 p.m. String Band of the Royal Artillery. The Exhibition remains open till June 13th.

June 3rd, 4th and 5th.—Nursing Conferences at the Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

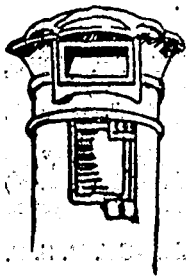
June 6th.—The Prince of Wales will open the East London Trades, Industries, and Arts Exhibition.

June 8th.—Concert and Dramatic Performance, under the patronage of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, in aid of the Clapham Home for the Dying, at Stafford House, by kind permission of the Duchess of Sutherland, 3.30 p.m.

Matinée in aid of the Deptford Fund and Cheyne Walk Hospital for Incurable Children, arranged by Mrs. Wordsworth and the Social Committee of the Deptford Fund, will take place under the immediate patronage of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany, who has graciously signified her intention to be present (two days).

Grand Morning Concert at 7, St. James's Square (by kind permission of Lord Egerton of Tatton and the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos), in aid of the North Argyll Nursing Association, under the patronage of her Royal Highness Princess Louise Marchioness of Lorne.

Princess Christian has postponed the annual Summer Sale at the Royal School of Art Needlework until June 25th, 26th, and 27th, in consequence of her unavoidable absence in Scotland on the date first arranged for the sale.



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.

MATRONSHIPS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—“A Straightforward Woman” has indeed touched on a “hardship” concerning which numbers of her colleagues will agree. I refer to the matter of the manner in which “Matronships” are filled up *sub rosa*. I am an assistant Matron, having gained the appointment after six years' hard work as a Nurse and Sister, and like many others, I am now anxious, after eight years' work, for promotion. During the past year I have put in for seven vacancies for Matrons, and have on several occasions been a selected candidate; upon each occasion I have incurred considerable

expenses, calling on medical men, printing testimonials, and in other items. On at least three occasions the post has been filled by ladies with much less practical experience than myself—ladies whom one usually finds have strong local interest, though lacking professional qualifications, and to whom votes have been promised long before the vacancy is publicly announced. Is this fair or just? If not, is there any remedy for this system of selection, or is one to give up hope of promotion unless one can obtain “backstair” influence? So many medical men and governors of Hospitals have now daughters, sisters, cousins or aunts earning a living as Nurses, that it is no unusual thing for well-paid posts to be filled by the relatives of these gentlemen, who may or may not be the most suitable candidate. This all appears very hard to those amongst us who are not able to bring anything but hard work and experience, and *bonâ fide* testimonials as our recommendation. I do hope the readers of the RECORD will express their views on the subject.

I am, yours truly,
ASSISTANT MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—My experience forces me to remark that I never knew a woman yet who entered a hospital for training who did not consider herself a heaven-born genius, nor when applying for the position of Matron fully convinced if she did not gain the appointment that the Committee had made a most unfair selection. Now we Matrons of experience know that it is only one woman in a thousand who possesses all the qualifications of character, heart and manner to make a first-class superintendent. How few of us possess a strict sense of *justice*—the very first qualification—firmness of purpose, indefatigable devotion to drudgery, and a wide knowledge of the world. The history of our Association strongly demonstrates that but one woman in a thousand possesses these virtues, and that but one woman in a thousand is a *born ruler of women*. “A Straightforward Woman” may have a just cause of complaint concerning the influences brought to bear upon the appointment of Hospital Matrons, but are not those influences at work wherever there is money, power and place to be obtained? Look at the scramble for place amongst all classes of society, from the peerage to the casual docker outside the gate. Human beings must and do trample upon one another in this unseemly competition for bread and wealth, and it is very difficult to suggest a system of reform sufficiently strong to overrule the result of the natural law. One deplors the low standard of honour which inspires the sale and barter of one's fellow creatures, and all that should be held most sacred by humanity, but the fact remains that never was there a time when *jobbery in excelsis* flourished as it does at present, in the Nursing world as elsewhere. It is the keen competition for bread and the low standard of life, inspired by the vulgar ostentation of uncultured wealth, that is crushing out much of the beauty of living. It is a shoddy age, and we must go with the swim, or “go under.”

CORIOLANUS.

“HEALTH SISTERS.”

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am a strong advocate of professional proficiency for Nurses who nurse, and more still for Nurses who teach others the art of Nursing, so I am

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)