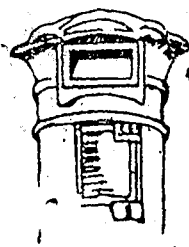


June 30th and July 1st.—Grand Bazaar in Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., in aid of an Actor's Orphanage Fund.

July 1st.—The Duke and Duchess of York will inaugurate the Fête in the Grounds of Middlesex Hospital to celebrate the opening of its Convalescent Home.



## 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.*

### MATRONS' APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—*Apropos* of the correspondence going on in the RECORD concerning "Matrons' Appointments," may I add my growl? Last week the Committee of St. Mark's Hospital for Fistula in the City Road met to appoint a Matron. Ten unfortunate applicants were dragged up as selected candidates, and were kept in suspense for a long time; and finally a lady, who, they afterwards heard, was not a selected candidate at all, was appointed, the powerful influence of one of the surgeons being exerted upon her behalf. I do not doubt she quite deserved her promotion, but it was a little hard on the other weary ten *selected* candidates. There should surely be a narrower limit to the number of women selected—it would save many much anxiety, expense, and disappointment. I quite agree with the suggestion that the Matrons' Council could help in this matter—say, by putting on a sort of honours list the names of those Sisters and Assistants who prove themselves fitted to rule, and who are wishful for Matrons' posts. Matrons are so often appointed on a side issue, or because they have the personal support of a rich member of the Committee, and their subordinates suffer in consequence.

Yours truly,  
"FAIR PLAY."

### DISCIPLINE OUT WEST.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was keenly interested in your Foreign Letter dealing with the "battle of the theatres"—the struggle on the part of the Nurses of the Californian Hospitals to maintain their right to go to theatres and little supper after-parties with the house surgeons and students. Miss Patten has my cordial good wishes in the position she is struggling to maintain, but from my knowledge of some American Hospitals, and the determined way in which some of the Western girls make a stand for independence and freedom, I know she has a somewhat hard task before her.

I quite agree with all your correspondent says as to the immense improvement which has taken place in the past five years in the discipline and order in the Hospitals of the Eastern States of America. I went out not many years ago to take charge of a charming little Hospital in an Eastern State, where the managers desired to introduce some English methods. Were I to describe some of the conditions existing, I think some of your readers would have serious doubts of my veracity. I will content myself with touching on some of the minor and most amusing of the abuses that had to be swept away.

One of my first difficulties was with regard to uniform. Caps they had not worn, and caps they would never wear. "Only English servants wore them—American housemaids even would not adopt this badge of servitude."

I approached the dangerous ground with tact and caution. I stated my views on the *professional* aspect of uniform, but this was not nearly so effective as the trump card I played by wearing myself the most delightful lace cap, something after the fashion of my old Training School—St. Bartholomew's. The Nurses were convinced that it was becoming, and this was the most potent argument. The Charge Nurse of the children's ward had always been in the habit of going on duty on Sunday mornings in a gorgeous blue silk costume, with something of a train. This was abolished, as were also the other gorgeous and varying Sabbath garbs adopted by the other Nurses.

But there was one thing I never *could* abolish, and that was the habit of the head male Nurse smoking his pipe when on duty in the wards. His example was followed by most of his patients, and the effect in a close, highly-heated ward where, according to American custom, the windows were rarely opened, can be easily imagined. But the medical staff did not mind, and I could get no support from them or the Committee in abolishing the "tobacco habit." It was very uphill work, and we had to take time. The previous Matron had been accustomed to take her meals with the servants; she always assisted with the washing, which was done on the premises, and had no objection to, and frequently did, cook the dinners. She hated to go into the wards, and knew nothing of nursing—in fact, she did not know the difference between medicine and surgery, and would have stood aghast had you mentioned anything so technical as a disinfectant or antiseptic. But she *did* understand practical cleanliness.

Bed-sores abounded, and unwholesomeness and unhygiene prevailed, so far as the real cleanliness of the Hospital would permit. The patients were most kindly treated, but Nursing, as we understand it, was as far from the conception of the medical and nursing staffs as was a conception of the hieroglyphics on the Egyptian tombs. I thought these few reminiscences would be interesting to some of your readers, to whom, as well as to you, I must apologise for the length of my letter.

Yours sincerely,  
A PERIPATETIC NURSE.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.  
The Most Luscious Tea in the World.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)