

Coming Events.

March 20th.—Annual Meeting of the Hospital Saturday Fund, Mansion House, 4 p.m. The Lord Mayor in the chair.

March 22nd.—The Duchess of Albany attends a meeting at the Mansion House on behalf of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, and inaugurates Ladies' Guild. The Lord Mayor presides, 3.

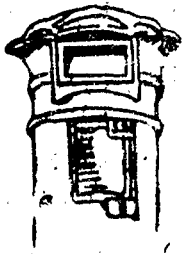
March 23rd.—Festival Dinner of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, 6.45 p.m. The Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., in the chair.

The Victoria Club.—Lecture on "Antiseptics in Midwifery Practice," by G. Drummond Robinson, Esq., M.D., 7 p.m.

March 25th.—The Royal Mint, 3.30. Meeting to discuss "Is there any reasonable objection to extending the Parliamentary franchise to women?" Lady Grove in the chair; Mrs. Carmichael Stopes will open the discussion, and Mrs. Fenwick Miller will speak.

March 26th.—Fifth Sessional Lecture Royal British Nurses' Association. "Bacteriology" (with demonstrations), by F. G. Wethered, Esq., M.D., 8 p.m.

March 31st.—Crystal Palace.—Mrs. Fenwick Miller will lecture on "Progress of Women in the Victorian Era?"



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.

BRIMSTONE AND TREACLE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Marie Herzog's letter in your last issue adds yet one more protest to the many which have poured in from matrons, sisters, and nurses against the mental nurse scheme as evolved by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Now, perhaps you will be good enough to enlighten me upon the subject. What I want to know is, are all these letters and protests having any effect, or are they so much waste paper, and is our kind foster-mother, the Royal British Nurses' Association, determined to make us swallow the dose which *she* says is for our good?

I ask, because it appears to me rather as if our amiable parent is determined to adopt the rôle of Mrs. Squeers, and with our heads under her arm, and her wooden spoon in her hand to force her nauseating compound down our unwilling throats. The dose is a fairly stiff one, that is to say, there is plenty of brimstone, and uncommonly little treacle, at least, I know that is the flavour left in *my* mouth! Brimstone in the shape of the sacrifice of the principles we have

fought for ever since the foundation of the Association, treacle in the form of the registration fees which "they say" will pay our debts. But will they? I think, any way, our debts (or the debts of some of the officials) would be dearly paid at the price, but I rather think that an outlet would be found for any such fees, and they would not be put to the uninteresting use of paying bygone debts.

I have an idea that we had better acknowledge that, so long as we live beyond our income, we must constantly be in debt, and then we could ask the general public to put their money into it. Happy thought, why not? We could have a sort of national debt in miniature, and offer 5, 10, 15, or 20 per cent. interest, whatever they like, the precise amount is immaterial. The treasurer could guarantee the financial soundness of the Association, of which he is so sure that he is willing to put his own money into it, and ask no interest at all, only too well pleased to have it so well taken care of. I think he told us that, or something like it, at the last annual meeting.

We should have the British public rushing for shares, and we should make money hand over fist. We might, probably should, have to pay the interest out of the capital, but what matter? "Make money—honestly if you can, but make money." The balance sheet might be a little awkward to manage perhaps, but doubtless that could be arranged.

Can you further inform me if there are *any* nurses, besides Mrs. Dacre Craven, who advocate the admission of asylum attendants, untrained in general nursing, on to the Register of Trained Nurses, or are we indebted entirely to the medical profession for supporting, as well as for originating, this impossible scheme?

I have heard a good many expressions of opinion about it, but not one that was not wholly condemnatory.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,
BRIMSTONE.

PREMATURE BURIAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—With reference to the able editorial comments on this subject in the NURSING RECORD during the interesting discussion in the Press, more than one medical practitioner has thrown doubt on the actual existence of such tragedies as premature burial in civilised countries, from the fact of his never having personally known of such cases. It must be obvious that where there is one instance of living burial discovered, there are hundreds that never come to light. Consider the number of narrow escapes, where persons afflicted with trance, catalepsy, syncope, or other form of life suspension, are either resuscitated or recover consciousness by themselves just before burial. The number of such cases is legion, and in whatever society the subject may be broached there are sure to be some instances related.

The signs of death are imperfectly known to all but a few members of the medical profession, owing to the subject being omitted from the medical curriculum prescribed for students in the medical schools. Alluding to the difficulty of distinguishing real from apparent death, Dr. Franz Hartmann, a well-known authority, says: "Apparent death is a state that resembles real death so closely that even the most

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)