

COMING EVENTS.

October 12th.—Queen Alexandra will open the Cavell Memorial Home and unveil a statue at Norwich on the anniversary of Edith Cavell's execution.

October 19th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting Charing Cross Hospital, 3.15 p.m. Tea, 4.15.

October 24th.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 43i, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m.

A meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, will be held at the end of the month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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 CASE FOR A MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I suppose that a great weight of opinion supports the theory that most of the moral and physical ills appertaining to what are called the working classes is attributable to bad and insufficient housing.

Will the Ministry of Health be invested with powers to compel the erection of suitable dwellings, not only in the crowded slum areas, but also in the picturesque beauty spots of our country villages?

I have this summer been spending my holiday in one such lovely spot and was struck by the puny stunted appearance of the children—very different from the rosy-cheeked youngsters usually associated with the country.

I remarked on^s their unhealthy appearance to the district nurse who told me that formerly she had spent a great part of her life in East London, which she knew "through and through." "I consider" she said "that the East End is pure compared to this place."

She attributed much of the sickness and degeneracy of the children to the bad and insufficient housing, and to the immorality consequent thereon.

The noble lord who owned hundreds of acres of lovely wooded property on which their picturesque little cottages stood apparently never troubled himself to ascertain if the tenants for whom he is responsible were housed as human beings and Christians have a right to be.

On his splendid estate, the convenient, modern, artisan cottage would probably be an eyesore to his noble eye; and so the mere detail of the physical and moral degeneracy of his tenantry has gone on unchecked.

It is high time that the State intervened in

such scandalous situations, for it is well known that the village I have instanced is not an isolated example.

Will the Ministry of Health be strong enough and brave enough to deal with this species of wickedness in high places?

Yours faithfully,

AN ENFRANCHISED WOMAN.

[Counting the cost of the enormous expenditure necessary for the sanitary housing of the people, we are of opinion that the State must do its part.—Ed.]

DISTRICT NURSES' BOOTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Being a district nurse I was naturally interested in the article on nurses' shoe leather in present issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The cost of my "duty" boots for the past year was £5 19s., and I cannot tell you, as I have not kept an account, how many *dozen* repairs to sole and heel at 4s. per pair.

I buy the brogue type, which I find only remain watertight for the first few weeks. Please do not think that I must have a good supply on hand; I have not. They are nearly all worn out.

Of course dear Donegal is a very wet spot, and one is often soaking wet through; but apart from the terrible discomfort it does not seem to do me any harm.

Yours faithfully,

C. BRADY,

Queen's Nurse.

Mulroy, Carrigart.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"Old Sister" writes: "My old Matron, Miss G. Thorold, of Middlesex, used to say (and no one will deny she was a very astute woman) 'that there could not be a first class medical and nursing school in the same hospital, one was apt to be sacrificed to the other.' I gather she meant that if the medical students were keen, little was left for the nurses to do but clean up. It is not human nature for keen young nurses to be excluded from participating in the scientific part of their work, such as 'dressing,' &c. That is why many nurses prefer to train in a hospital to which a medical school is not attached. The increase of medical women students in the wards—and, of course, it is only just they should have equal chances with men—is going to add to nursing difficulties in the future, and I read last week's editorial with great interest."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

October 26th.—In what conditions is transfusion of blood used in war surgery?

November 2nd.—Describe the treatment of fractures by massage.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)