

We were always aware that the inauguration of the State Examination in Nursing would result in a higher standard of teaching in the Nurse Training Schools, and a recent side light on this point confirms our belief.

We learn that since the establishment of the examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales the price of skeletons has gone up considerably, good specimens are not easy to procure, and the demand of the Nurse Training Schools for skeletons is in excess of the supply. The consequence has been to increase the price.

Incidentally the inevitable deduction is that before the establishment of the State Examination quite a number of probationers were taught anatomy, and passed through their three years' training, without seeing a skeleton.

Will our readers bear in mind the Carnival Dance, in aid of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital Extension, Euston Road, London, N.W., which is being organised by the Professional Union of Trained Nurses. The dance will take place at the Marylebone Hall, Marylebone Road, N.W.1, near the Great Central Station, on Friday, February 15th, from 8 to 12 p.m. Tickets are 3s. 6d. each. Refreshments by the Plane Tree Tea Rooms.

A literary invalid is of the opinion that it is no use being ill unless you learn something as the result, and sends us the following experience. At first she gathered together on her bedside table all the implements of her craft, pens, pencils, cutters, markers, scissors, sealing wax, seal, penwiper, and various other small articles, but they had a habit of always being out of the way when required. Then one day she thought that an ordinary glass tumbler would be a receptacle to keep them all together. No sooner thought of than acted upon, and since that time, by this simple device, peace has reigned supreme where before was confusion.

There must be many nurses and invalids to whom necessity has proved the mother of invention, and we shall be glad to hear from them of any devices, no matter how simple, which they have themselves designed or invented.

It is good news that Mrs. Breckinridge, the Director of the Kentucky Frontier Nursing Service, hopes to visit England this spring. She will be more than welcome. The December issue of its *Quarterly Bulletin* contains, amongst others, the following testimony to her pioneer work—primarily for the mothers in the fastnesses of the Kentucky Mountains—from Miss Ella Woodyard, Ph.D., Institute of Educational Research, Teachers' College, Columbia University: "I consider it the outstanding piece of constructive social engineering in the field of health in our rural regions in our country at the present time. It has been planned and carried through with acumen and strategy, as well as buoyancy and thoroughness, and deserves the abundant success that should crown a piece of social work which is badly needed, shrewdly contrived, economically practical and scientifically sound."

We reproduce from the *Bulletin* an illustration of the Frontier Nurse. This nurse-midwife is Miss Betty Lester, R.N., and the black mare named Raven was the gift of Mrs. Monroe Wright of Lexington, Kentucky.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The twenty-ninth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, January 19th, at 2 p.m.

The Chair was taken by Miss M. Brey, Vice-President, who voiced the regret of the President at still being unable to preside at the Council Meeting.

The following Members of the Council were present: Miss S. A. Villiers (Vice-President), Miss M. G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss D. K. Graham and Miss I. Macdonald (Fellows), and Miss E. J. Haswell and Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C. (Members).

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., the Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

LETTER TO THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

Arising out of the Minutes the following letter, which had been sent to the Chairman and Members of the Central Midwives Board by direction of the Council, and the acknowledgment from the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board, were read by the Secretary.

The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, London, W.1.
18th January, 1929.

To the Chairman and Members, Central Midwives Board.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am instructed to acquaint you that it has been brought to the notice of the Council of the British College of Nurses, by Fellows of the College, that great inconvenience results in institutions where adequate theoretical teaching can be given to pupil midwives, owing to the requirement of the Central Midwives Board that they shall attend central classes for this purpose.

My Council is aware that this practice has always been the considered policy of the Central Midwives Board, but, having regard to the experience, over a number of years, now gained by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in connection with which it is found quite practicable for the requisite theoretical, as well as practical instruction to be given in the majority of approved schools, my Council will be grateful if the Central Midwives Board will consider this question afresh, having regard to the additional time spent, and dislocation of work involved, in busy hospitals.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

GRACE REYNOLDS HALE, *Secretary*.

LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

The draft of a letter to be sent to the Home Secretary was considered.

The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, London, W.1.
31st January, 1929.

To the Right Honble. Sir William Joynson Hicks, Bart.,
M.P., *Secretary of State for Home Affairs*.

Sir,—I am instructed by the Council of the British College of Nurses to say that they view with concern the defenceless position of persons who have suffered from encephalitis lethargica when living at large in the world, and respectfully petition that a Deputation from this

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