

## Coming Events.

*June 8th.*—Princess Mary Adelaide will inspect the London Companies of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps on Wimbledon Common, 6 p.m.

The Duke and Duchess of York will be present at the Civil Service Sports at Stamford Bridge Grounds.

*June 11th.*—The Duke of Westminster will preside at the meeting of the Orphan Working School at Grosvenor House.

The Marchioness of Londonderry will open the Annual Sale of the Inmates' Work, at the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath.

*June 12th.*—The Editorial Staff of the NURSING RECORD At Home, 4 to 7, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., to consider the formation of a Lending and Reference Library for Nurses.

Royal Botanic Society—Special Floral Fête, 2 to 7. Meeting in aid of the West London Hospital, at Devonshire House, Piccadilly, at 4, the Duke of Devonshire in the chair.

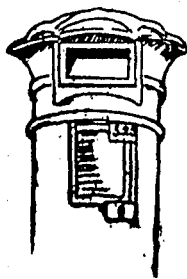
Reception of the "Eighty Club," at Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Blyth's, 45, Portland Place, to meet the Earl of Rosebery.

Grand military concert, Queen's Hall, at 2.30 p.m., under Royal patronage, in aid of the funds of the Royal Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows.

*June 13th.*—Mrs. Eva McLaren's second meeting of the School of Method, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., 3 p.m.

The Metropolitan Hospital Banquet, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, 7.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children—Concert at Grosvenor House, under the patronage of the Duke and Duchess of York, 3.30. Princess Mary Adelaide has promised to be present.



## 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.*

### HOSPITAL ENGAGEMENTS.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—The controversy on Hospital Engagements has been most instructive and interesting. The difficulties of one's relations with the medical staff would be very much simplified if it were understood "no falling in love allowed." One sees in woods and preserves, "Trespassers will be prosecuted;" in yards and workshops notices are put up "Loitering about for any purpose is prohibited. By order."

Now I would suggest such notices might be posted in hospital—"Engagements strictly forbidden. By order of the Matron;" "Medical students and others strictly prohibited from lingering in the wards. By order of the Dean." The moral effect on the pro. and the first-year men would be enormous!

It does not exactly bear on the present discussion, but I would like to tell an instructive little story of a difficulty

which arose between a house surgeon and myself when I was Matron of a little hospital in the United States. By the regulation of the hospital we took our meals together. The house surgeon waxed sentimental. I snubbed him. A coolness arose. Unfortunately the coolness was very temporary on his side. He again grew sentimental. I out-Heroded Herod in my snubs. He rushed on to his fate and was refused, kindly but firmly; I did not even promise "to be a sister to him."

He retired sulking. Two days later he saw an opportunity for revenge. A small—a very small—matter took place in one of the wards. On the strictest straining of the letter of the law perhaps I should have reported the matter to him; I hardly considered it worth while, and failed to do so. He reported me to the Committee for neglect of duty. He gave evidence against the woman two days before he had been so anxious to love, honour—I was going to write obey!—but I should say protect. The Committee called me before them; I was cross-examined on his evidence. The Chairman was a clever man; he jumped at the right conclusion, and although he advised that "in future it might be better if such things were reported to the house surgeon," &c., &c., he sent for that young man and told him before the assembled Committee that if he ever brought so trivial a complaint about their Matron before them again he would be requested to send in his resignation.

The American Committee, with Yankee chivalry, were very angry at a man allowing so personal a feeling to influence him professionally. And it was so clever of them to diagnose the true state of things without a hint from me.

Sincerely yours,

"A CONFIRMED SPINSTER."

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—I have read with particular interest the discussion concerning "Hospital engagements." As the mother of two young students at one of our large metropolitan medical schools, I feel strongly that intimacy in the wards should be most strongly deprecated by the Hospital authorities between the students and Nurses, and can imagine nothing but a lowering of tone in a sick ward where these young workers are not firmly told from the first that their relations must be purely official. Both Nurses and students have a very grave responsibility in maintaining the discipline of the Hospital, and gossip and inattention to duty can but be the result where discipline is lax. We mothers send our boys to the Hospital to work, not to amuse themselves, and those of our daughters who enter a Nursing school must work also—much more laboriously, I fear, than the boys, if they are to attain to efficiency in their profession and reach that high standard of living, after which each Nurse of the sick must strain if she is to be worthy of her high calling. Much discredit must be brought upon the earnest probationer who is whole-hearted in her devotion to duty, by the girls of a less high moral standard, who enter our Hospitals from various motives, not intending to devote their lives to the work of nursing the sick and who "amuse" themselves the while. I am, therefore, in sympathy with those Matrons who have a high ideal of what their Nurses should become, and discourage frivolity of any kind in the wards, and regret to hear that of late years it has become much more difficult for these ladies to maintain that discipline than it was a decade ago.

"MATERFAMILIAS."

### SICK FUND FOR THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—Some months ago I wrote to the secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the subject of the formation of a Sick Fund, as I was sure Nurses would all be glad to help themselves. The answer I received was that

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)