

*November 4th.*—The Duchess of Albany opens the Industrial Exhibition of the Girls' Friendly Society at Queen's-gate Hall.

Inspection and Demonstration of Disinfecting and Filtering Appliances at J. Defries & Sons, Limited, 147, Houndsditch, E.C., at 3 p.m.

*November 5th.*—Principles of calculating Areas, Cubic Space, &c.; Interpretation of Plans and Sections to Scale. J. Wallace Peggs, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E.

*November 7th.*—Inspection and Demonstration of Disinfecting Apparatus and Model Steam Laundry at St. John's Wharf, Fulham, at 3.30 p.m. Conducted by W. G. Lacy.

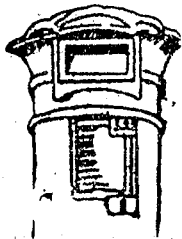
Mr. Bancroft will give a Reading of Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol" in aid of the Cancer Wards of Middlesex Hospital, at Queen's Hall, Langham Place.

Lectures and Demonstrations on Ambulance and Sick Nursing are being held every Thursday, at 3.30 p.m., until December 10th, at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, W.

### The Matrons' Council.

WE are asked to state that the Conference of the Matrons' Council, which it was hoped to hold on November 5th, and which we announced in our last issue, has been unavoidably postponed.

Members of the Matrons' Council who wish to communicate with the new Hon. Secretary, Miss Sophia Wingfield, can address her at 6, The Orchard, Bedford Park, London.



### 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.*

#### NURSING IN CAPE COLONY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, I should like to repudiate the statement made by a fellow-member on the subject of Nursing in Cape Town. The article I refer to was published on August 29th, and states that the "experienced English trained Nurse is a waste product," and "that her credentials are of no value."

I have been out here nearly eight months, and have not been asked to combine medical, surgical, and midwifery; but, all the same, any Nurse holding her certificates for all three branches, would, I should imagine, be only too pleased to have the opportunity to vary her work, naturally keeping free from infection, if she makes midwifery her speciality.

As to fees, the statement "that the trained English woman can command no higher fee than the coloured woman who has never had a week's training," is abso-

lutely untrue. The coloured woman at the most gets only 10s. a week, and we get £2 2s., and sometimes £2 12s. 6d.

That the nursing is different here to what it is at home I admit; the ladies themselves do so much more in their houses than they do at home, on account of the incapability of the coloured servants, that it is very natural they should expect the Nurse, who comes into their home at a time of illness, to be able and willing to help in many ways besides the actual nursing, thus making the nursing somewhat rougher than at home; but, to my mind, this is quite compensated for by the friendship thus gained. Then, again, the Nurse who wishes to succeed must learn to do with the things at hand, and not expect all the advantages and appliances of a Hospital. In most cases her patients become her fast friends, and are most kind in asking her to stay with them when out of work. There is more than enough work for all good Nurses if they set about it in the right way, viz., by entering their names on one of the registers kept by the leading chemists, and by always informing them when a case is over. The probability is that they will be sent to a fresh case, if not the same day, very soon after their notice. I have been out of work altogether about six weeks in the eight months, one month of which was on account of having nursed blood-poisoning, and, had I so wished, I could have spent the whole of that time with different patients, or rather friends.

Far from discouraging Nurses to come out here, I feel sure there is a large field for them in the Colony, provided they do not come out with the idea that the people of South Africa know nothing, and that they must be taught everything by the new importation.

From my own experience I do not find the hours any longer than at home; for, where there is only one Nurse at a case, it stands to reason that she must have the lion's share of the work. The "experienced member" seems unaware that there is a public Register for Nurses here as at home, where the name of any Nurse, after a public examination, can be entered, so doing away altogether with her assertion that "the Nurse is better liked with no credentials at all," and as to being particular about dirt and evil smells, all the houses I have been into are kept perfectly clean, and the smells mostly come from the drainage, or rather want of it, in the town itself; perhaps she was nursing amongst the Malay population, which would, I should imagine, amply account for the dirt, the smells, and the nervous exhaustion.

Believe me, dear Madam, yours truly,

ETHEL STRACHAN.

St. Agnes, Upper Union Street,  
The Gardens, Cape Town.  
September 22nd, 1896.

#### THE REGISTER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been drawn by a reader of the NURSING RECORD to some figures as to the number of trained Nurses who are also midwives, which were quoted by Miss Brey in the most able paper which she read at the Nursing Conference, and which has recently appeared in the RECORD. My correspondent thinks that there are many more registered Nurses who possess the L.O.S. diploma than has been stated. For this reason—that she was informed at the offices

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