

Coming Events.

April 27th.—Annual Meeting of the Central National Society for Women's Suffrage, Council Chamber, Westminster Town Hall, Caxton Street, 4 p.m. Chair to be taken by Mrs. Russell Cooke.

April 30th.—Fifth Sessional Lecture, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W. : "The Failures and Successes of Private Nurses," by Miss G. Scott (late Matron of the Sussex County Hospital.)

May 6th.—Princess Christian attends the St. John Ambulance Fête and Competition at the Crystal Palace in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee, and opens the Victorian Exhibition.

May 7th.—Children's Tribute for the Queen's Jubilee Nurses at the Mansion House. Mrs. Jack Johnson will give "The Children's Story of the Queen's Reign." The Lady Mayoress will preside.



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.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As I deeply regret to read that the wishes of the matrons expressed by letter to the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, desiring that the names of the late *ex-officio* matrons should be nominated for election, and that the representation of sisters and nurses on the Council should be more just for 1898, has not only been ignored, but their letters have been openly treated with contempt by the chairman, Sir James Crichton-Browne, I shall be obliged if you will insert the letter I addressed to the members of the General Council on the 9th inst., hoping perhaps against hope, that justice would be done.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE OKELL,
Matron.

Bridgewater Infirmary.

To the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Bridgewater Infirmary,
April 8th, 1897.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—As one deeply interested in, and most thoroughly loyal to the Royal British Nurses' Association, I sincerely trust that when forming the new Council list for 1897-8 the names of

the founders, and especially that of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the chief founder, will not be absent from the list. The last Council list was not satisfactory to many old and loyal members, and I am quite certain it would be for the good of the Corporation if its original founders were invited once more to take their place upon the Council.

It is to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick the Royal British Nurses' Association owes its very existence, and it seems to me most undesirable that nurses should be without her valuable advice and work in *their own Association*, especially as since she and Dr. Fenwick have ceased to have a voice in the management, our Corporation has not been attended with the same success. With the very deepest respect to Her Royal Highness, our President, and to the General Council, I do trust that the wishes of so many of us may receive favourable consideration, and that the affairs of the Association, consisting of members in all parts of the country, may not be so largely controlled by those connected with one or two London hospitals, but may be managed by a thoroughly representative body, which I should like to see include the matrons of the chief training schools.

Believe me,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours very faithfully,
CHARLOTTE OKELL,
Matron.

MENTAL NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have followed with very great interest the correspondence in the NURSING RECORD "On the Admission of Mental Nurses as Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association." That I have not taken part in it is due to two reasons—first, I am not a trained nurse (hospital-trained perhaps I should say) myself, and therefore any opinion expressed by me would not carry much weight; and secondly, my husband has one of those much-condemned institutions—a private asylum. Therefore, any opinion I did express would be found in some obscure way to be influenced by self-interest. Yet for over twenty years, the period during which we have been occupied in the care of insane ladies, I have tried in every way in my power to raise the standard of asylum nursing, and to show the useful and important sphere of work open to women who possess the special qualifications for this department of nursing.

From long experience may I differ from you in believing that the nurses trained in the sick wards of a general hospital are necessarily capable of nursing the insane sick. It has been a disappointment to me, when in cases of illness, I have been obliged to seek the help of additional nurses "on call," to find those known to be excellent nurses in an ordinary case of acute illness quite helpless with an insane patient. You see, when such a patient is taken ill with some bodily disease the nervous or mental symptoms are not in abeyance. A melancholic patient will continue to refuse food, and a case of acute mania will not be less violent, so that the training of a real mental nurse in dealing with her patient is quite as necessary in sickness as when the insane symptoms are more prominent. In discussing this question all nurses, and those who have to superintend them, are indebted

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