

Coming Events.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

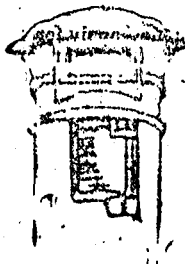
November 16th, 23rd, and 30th.—Demonstration in Invalid Cookery. By Miss Earle. 2.30 p.m.

December 1st.—First Sessional Lecture—"Ants." By Sir John Lubbock.

December 15th.—Annual Conversazione.

THE SANITARY INSTITUTE.

November 15th.—Sanitary Appliances. George Reid, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.



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.

SAUCE FOR THE GANDER

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Reading the article "A Question of Discipline" in this week's NURSING RECORD, reminds me of a paragraph I saw in a daily paper a few days before on the subject of nurses smoking, and the need of discipline in hospitals and infirmaries. I, as one interested in the question, would like to ask, Should the discipline be confined to the nurses? If so, Is it good form for a house surgeon to retain his pipe whilst receiving a Sister's report? or for a student to smoke whilst examining a sick child in its mother's arms? Just now there seems to be a general desire to censure nurses on all sides. I would ask the public to preserve the happy medium, and act up to their well-earned character of British justice. Surely the higher branch should first set the example, and then command the abstinence from smoking while attending patients, then they can sit in judgment on those hardly-worked women, who are exposed to many unpleasantnesses that do not touch their seniors, and in which case more excuse could be made were it necessary. Of course, I am not defending so undignified and objectionable a habit as that of a woman smoking, but I do contend that dignity of action and deportment *when on duty* is as essential on one side as the other, and on calm reflection these social irregularities will be surely recognized in common fairness.

Yours very truly,

LOOKER ON AS WELL AS WORKER.

November 8th, 1897.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I read with interest your article upon "A Question of Discipline," and I should like to know, if

the nurses at the Camberwell Infirmary who smoke are to be dismissed in disgrace, why the medical officers are not treated in the same way. Of course, in either case such an action taken by the guardians would be preposterous. If they smoked in the wards this would entirely be a different matter, but, if they smoke in the privacy of their own rooms, unless, of course, they entered into an agreement when they took service with the institution that they would not do so, who is to prevent them? In my opinion it would be most unjust to attempt to do so.

I may as well admit it at once—I smoke. I may further say I find the practice most beneficial. When I retire to my room late at night, too tired to read, too tired to sleep, and suffering from the nervous strain and exhaustion with which many ward sisters, in these days of high pressure, are but too well acquainted, I find a cigarette of the greatest possible benefit. If nothing is said to my house surgeon about the iniquity of his indulging in a pipe in his own room, why should it be as much as my post is worth, for me to do the same in mine?

It is the old vexed question of the tyranny of the man over the woman. They don't like it, they won't have it, and that is sufficient. As a matter of justice, I protest. Is there a country in the world, except England, where it is not most unusual for a woman not to smoke? With your usual justice, I feel sure you will see what I mean, even if you do not approve of the habit of women smoking.

I am, Dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

A WOMAN SMOKER.

MATERNITY NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly tell me if there is any hospital which includes in its curriculum a course of maternity training? I am anxious ultimately to take up this branch of nursing, but I have read so much in the NURSING RECORD of the advisability of qualifying in general work in order to fit oneself for a special branch, that I should like to go through a hospital course, only, naturally, I should like that course to include the work which I specially want. I can hear of no hospital where I can obtain this training, and am told that at the end of my hospital course I shall have to enter as a paying pupil at a special hospital. This seems hard, and also, how can trained nurses, and matrons of hospitals, complain justly that monthly nurses are untrained, except in their own branch of work, if no facilities are afforded them for obtaining maternity training during a three-years' course in a general hospital? I cannot understand why some arrangement cannot be made between the general and special hospitals by which the general hospitals should have the benefit of the special training ground, and the special hospitals the benefit of being nursed by trained nurses, instead of having a continual influx of raw material. I wonder if my ideas are impossible to carry out.

Another point which occurs to me is, can a nurse rightly describe herself as "trained" who has no knowledge of such an important branch of work as maternity nursing? I should have thought that every trained nurse would be expected to know how to nurse a maternity case if required to do so.

Yours faithfully,

THINKER.

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