

"Paris." By Emile Zola.
 "A Forgotten Sin." By Dorothea Gerard.
 "A Man from the North." By E. A. Bennett.
 "Plain Living." By Rolf Boldrewood.
 "The Caprice of Julia." By Lewis Sergeant.
 "The Minister of State." By J. A. Steuart.
 "The Annual Charities Register and Digest." With
 an Introduction by C. S. Loch.

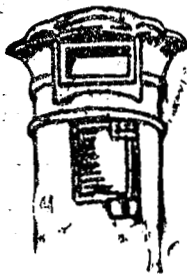
Coming Events.

March 8th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Sessional Lecture. "The Nursing of Europeans on the West Coast of Africa." By Miss Mary Kingsley.

March 10th.—The Bishop of London presides at a meeting of the Associated Societies for the Protection of Women and Children. 3 p.m.

March 10th.—National Union of Women Workers. Conference to consider the advisability of forming a nursing Sub-Committee, at the office of the National Health Society. 2.30 p.m.

March 11th.—The Lord Mayor presides at the annual meeting of the East London Nursing Society, at the Mansion House.



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 EDUCATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your report last week of the course of instruction, given under the authority of the University of Texas, in the School of Clinical Instruction of the Medical Department, is surely a lesson to "Britishers" to cultivate the "divine discontent" which the NURSING RECORD talks about. Here are we, in England, pluming ourselves on our progress in nursing matters, and quite certain that the training, given by our own particular hospital, is perfect and cannot be improved upon, while that training is arranged perhaps on no settled plan, and the convenience of the hospitals, and the necessities which arise, are considered by our superiors, much more than the duty of giving the nurses all-round experience. Again, our examinations are conducted frequently, and lectures given by medical men who, apparently, have a creed that the fruit of the tree of knowledge is much more evil than good for nurses, being only capable of assimilation by the sterner sex, and that the doses given to us should, therefore, be homœopathic ones, if doses we must have at all. One feels convinced that our instructors sigh in their own minds for the days when lectures to nurses were considered quite unnecessary, but they make use of their opportunities to inculcate the necessity of obedience. Indeed, one

comes away from many a lecture fully convinced—if one is docile, teachable, and credulous, that is to say—that "obedience is the whole duty of woman." If one is in a different frame of mind, under a placid exterior of submission to the powers that be, there is a deep down conviction that we nurses are unfairly treated, that we have a right to bread, and have been fed with stones, and that if we are to nurse our patients efficiently and skilfully, we have a right to be taught scientific methods of doing so. To those, and they are many, who feel in this way, the news of a university chair of clinical nursing, with a superintendent of nurses as the appointed professor, is good news indeed. Is it too much to hope that the day will come when our English universities will follow in the wake of Texas? I hope not; it will, with many other good things, follow on the suffrage, which British women will soon demand.

Yours faithfully,

DISCONTENT.

PREMATURE BURIAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with interest the letter in last week's NURSING RECORD, on premature burial. I wonder whether an outsider realizes the sort of nightmare that seizes one, especially in one's inexperienced days, lest one should notify as dead a living person. I quite agree that the present way of certifying deaths is loose in the extreme, and, I am sure too, many young nurses would be greatly relieved if medical certificates of death were given after personal inspection, instead of upon hearsay. I shall never forget the first time I was on night duty, and alone in a ward of four-and-twenty patients. A patient died, and somehow the death—I had not had many of them then—got on my nerves I suppose. When the house surgeon came round, I asked him to come and look at the man. He did so. "Not much doubt about that, is there?" he said. There wasn't, and yet the still form behind the screens had a fascination for me, and at least six times during the night did I go and look at that man. In the early morning hours, I could have been certain he was breathing. Of course he wasn't, but such are some of the torments which assail a night nurse. In a hospital, of course, it is extremely improbable that a premature burial should occur. But how about the many cases in which the death is simply notified by relatives who have had no previous experience whatever of death?

Yours faithfully,

NIGHT NURSE.

A CIVIL MEDAL OF MERIT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was so glad to observe that, with your usual regard for the interests of nurses, you advocated last week the establishment of a civil medal of merit for nurses. There are many acts of heroism performed by civil nurses which merit a distinction quite as much as those rendered in time of war, and amongst these must surely rank the work of the sisters who are nursing the plague-stricken in India. Why is it that so much glamour is still attached to war, which is at best a relic of barbarous ages, and at its worst an inspiration of the evil one?

Yours faithfully,

A LOVER OF PEACE.

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