

Coming Events.

March 28th.—Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association, at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. 4 p.m.

March 29th.—Festival Dinner of the British Orphan Asylum, at the Hotel Métropole, the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., in the chair.

April 18th.—Festival Dinner of the Metropolitan Hospital, at the Hotel Métropole, the Lord Mayor presiding.



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 SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Can you help me? I am anxious to know the address of Nursing Institutes in South Africa, and what salary and arrangements they make about the passage out. Are there Homes in Kimberley and Johannesburg, and can you tell me how I could get a Superintendence there, either in Hospital or Institute, how I should go to work about it, and are such posts difficult to get if one has no influence?

I shall look for your reply in the NURSING RECORD, and I trust I may not be troubling you too much.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A. M. D.

[We receive very contradictory accounts about nursing work in South Africa, and we never advise any nurse to seek work there unless she can make some definite arrangement before starting, as the number of trained nurses in South Africa is now considerable. There are Nursing Institutions in Cape Town (write to Miss Miller, Victorian Nurses' Institute, Hof Street, Cape Town) and one in Kimberley (address: Sister Henrietta, Nursing Institute, Kimberley); we feel sure they will afford you every information. We do not think it is easy to obtain the post of Superintendent of Institutions in South Africa. Private nurses receive higher salaries than at home, but the work is not so clearly defined, and everything is very much more expensive.—ED.]

SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Arrangements are already being made in this Infirmary for the nurses' summer holidays, and we are, of course, all anxious to make

the best of our three weeks. We charge nurses have been talking the matter over, and we think it would be very nice if some cycling tours could be arranged with nurses in other institutions. Would you be good enough to insert this letter in next week's RECORD, so that the subject might be discussed, and, if possible, some arrangements made. I am one of those nurses with no settled home, and have spent happy holidays at the Home of Rest at Brighton, but should like to change this year, and having bought a bicycle want to make the most of it.

Yours sincerely,
A CHARGE NURSE.

[This is a happy idea, and we only wish we could spend a holiday in the same delightful way, but, alas! as yet we are still amongst the unhappy few who do not bike; but we should advise our correspondent first of all to obtain the dainty illustrated programmes from Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons, giving details of their four-guinea Bank-Holiday Cycling Tours to Normandy, Brittany, and Switzerland. We believe these tours are to be "personally conducted" throughout the summer, and the information would be invaluable.—ED.]

INFIRMARY NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I constantly observe allusions in your interesting paper to infirmary nursing and remarks about the discomfort of the nurses working in workhouse sick wards. This may be true in some instances, but after some months' experience as nurse in one of these institutions I can assure you that if the ratepayers knew one half of the waste and extravagance which goes on in these workhouse wards they would take some means to save the waste of their money. The nurses live like fighting cocks, having twice as much food as rations as they can possibly eat, and as for work they seldom soil their fingers—pauper labour being still in full swing and encouraged by the officials. The hours of duty are absurd, the nurses being oftener off duty than in their wards, and, being hand in glove with the guardians, I can assure you paupers, nurses, and guardians form a very happy family, at the expense of the ratepayer. The fact is the administration of the Poor Law in a workhouse is most demoralizing to all concerned, and is breeding up a race of parasitic creatures, absolutely devoid of thrift, self-respect, or endurance; indeed the British nation is preparing a smart rod for its own back, in the coming by-and-bye, in encouraging vagabondage, drunkenness, and laziness—the whole system is rotten to the core, and any one who objects to it is soon hounded out of the House. If ever reform was needed it is in the administration of the Poor Law in our workhouses; it is a disgrace to the nation. Bumble reigns supreme as in the days of Dickens, only now he co-opts the inmates instead of coercing them.

Yours truly,
INDIGNATION.

[We should advise you if you have authentic notes of your experience to lay them before the Local Government Board. You would be doing good service to the sick, as well as to the ratepayers, by exposing abuses. If you keep silence it is equivalent to condoning them.—ED.]

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