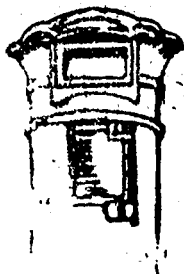


May 12th.—The Duchess of Marlborough opens the Victoria House for Epileptics at Chalfont St. Peter; and the Duke of Marlborough and Mrs. Passmore Edwards lay foundation stones of further homes.

June 15th and 16th.—First Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. Morning Session, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Afternoon Session, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to members free. To non-subscribers 3s. for the whole conference, or 1s. for each session.



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.

PRIVATE NURSES' HOURS OFF DUTY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I observe that your columns are always open to free discussion on all professional questions—so, may I venture, although I am not a nurse, to bring before your readers a matter of some importance. On several occasions it has been necessary for me to call in the aid of a trained nurse during severe illness in my family, and as a rule the nurse brings a copy of the regulations under which she works with her. I find that it is generally stated that a nurse shall have seven or eight hours out of the sick room for sleep, etc., but in none of these rules can I find any allusion to the length of time each nurse may claim off duty, and this has proved a difficulty upon more than one occasion. May I ask if it is right that a trained nurse should go in and out, and leave her patient for some hours—merely intimating her intention to do so to a member of the family. I cannot think that this liberty should be accorded to a private nurse; and it appears to me, as one of the public who thoroughly appreciates the skill of the modern trained nurse, that some friction might be avoided if the rules of the Nurses' Co-operations embodied one dealing with this detail. I am a subscriber to your excellent paper, and find it most useful in keeping in touch with the progress of nursing.

Yours truly,

"MATER FAMILIAS."

A NURSING EXHIBIT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was sorry to notice that the time is too short for a nursing exhibition in connection with the forthcoming Conference on Nursing—because, however interesting professional questions may be—the majority of nurses take greater interest in the practical side of their work, and nothing can be more educational than a comparative exhibition of nursing appliances. The Matrons' Council would be doing a useful work if it could arrange a permanent show of the kind. We, members of the R.B.N.A., have been

patiently waiting for the last four years hoping against hope that we might make some use of our organization and Charter, but now that both have been filched from us, our wisest plan will be to help ourselves. Hoping the Conference will be a great success.

I remain, yours truly,

E. G.

CYCLING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see an article on cycling in the RECORD, and to have a clear and definite distinction made between the fatigue of cycling and that of walking. For it is my frequent experience to meet girls and women who can easily cycle for a considerable distance, yet are fatigued by a short walk. And this their obliging critics invariably put down to "Hysteria."

I learned something last week about cycling which I think will be greatly to the advantage of us members of the B.N.A. I heard a well known lecturer on hygiene teach that "learning to ride a bicycle well, developed the brain quite as much as conjugating Greek Verbs could do."

Now I don't think many of us are likely to take to conjugating Greek verbs. For my part when I learned Greek I felt, somehow, when I came to the verbs that I knew about enough Greek; I thought I might be conceited about it if I knew more, so I stopped. Still, it is an apparent fact that an increased development of brain is urgently needed amongst us, so let us all take to cycling, and in time some of us—not all of us, of course, but some of us, at least—may even acquire enough intellect to know what a registered letter is,—without the aid of a "specialist."

Y. P. J.

SPRING CLEANING.

To the Editor of "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM.—Your remarks in your last issue upon "spring cleaning," must express the mind of many women who are unfortunately responsible for the domestic cleanliness. The most extraordinary thing is that so few people, male or female, have any idea how to set about cleaning at all. If one watches the ordinary domestic turning out a room, one's fingers itch to do it one's self. Again, how often does the average housemaid cover up the furniture with dust sheets over night, or at least before she begins to sweep in the morning. The strong probability is that she sweeps the floor, allowing the dust to settle on the furniture, and then *perhaps* she brushes the chairs. Some one said to me the other day—*à propos* of the futility of the average domestic—"it is a curse ever to have been in a hospital," but after all, how many nurses are really clean in their work. I, at least, suffered at the hands of one who was not. We had deep polished window ledges for one thing I remember, which I took a pride in scrubbing once a week before I polished them. Not so the nurse with whom I did alternate night and day duty. She poured on the polish, but as for scrubbing off the old before she put on the new—never. The consequence was that she polished on the top of dirt, and it took me *weeks* to get those window ledges really to my mind when I came on day duty; in fact, by the time they were thoroughly clean, the nurse aforementioned came on day duty

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)