

Coming Events.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

January 14th.—Quarterly Meeting of the General Council. 5 p.m.

January 28th.—Second Lecture by Dr. Colman. "Egypt."

January 19th.—Annual Entertainment of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses. St. Martin's Town Hall. 8 p.m.

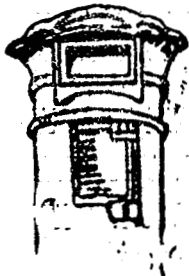
January 20th.—Lord Lansdowne receives a deputation from the British Medical Association with regard to the condition of the Army Medical Service.

Royal Institution: Professor Dewar, F.R.S., first of a course of three lectures on "The Halogen Group of Elements." 3 p.m.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT'S READINGS.

January 15th.—The Chief Rabbi presides at the reading given by Sir Squire Bancroft, at St. Martin's Town Hall, in aid of the Home and Hospital for Jewish Incurables.

January 31st.—Princess Louise will be present at the reading of Charles Dickens's "Christmas Carol" by Sir Squire Bancroft, on behalf of the East London District Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. St. James's Theatre, 3 p.m.



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.

MAXIMUM WORK FOR MINIMUM WAGE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read "C.L.'s" letter in last week's NURSING RECORD with much interest, and I am very glad that there are hospital committees who think it right to give a fair wage for a fair amount of work, but, I do not think that "C.L." has arrived at the right solution of the difficulty as to nurses' pay after all. To my thinking, nurses must determine for themselves whether they will work for salaries upon which they cannot live. If they will do it, then their best friends cannot save them from the consequences of their own folly. This is a lesson, which, I believe, we trained nurses have to learn. We have depended too long upon being fed with spoon food. We open our mouths like so many birds, and expect everything we require to be popped into them, and grumble not a little if the supply falls short, but do we ever bestir ourselves to obtain professional status and remuneration on a sound basis? I wonder how many nurses who read this letter will be able to say that they have ever raised

a little finger to obtain this end. I fear very few. Then how can we possibly expect a satisfactory state of things? Until nurses themselves take some interest in their professional affairs, and organize as all other professions, and all classes of labourers do, within their own ranks, the present unsatisfactory conditions must prevail. Why do we not take a lesson from the engineers? Do they work night and day, undermine their health, and work for insufficient pay? By no means. They knock off work, and put what they consider their reasonable demands before their employers, as a condition of returning to work—and all honour to them. They will probably suffer, but their successors will benefit. So with nurses. There will be martyrs, doubtless, but their martyrdom will mean the salvation of their profession.

I do not think "C.L." is right in arbitrarily determining the minimum wages of probationers and nurses at £20 and £30 per annum. Surely, while they are in the pupil stage, and are being taught the science of a skilled profession, nurses should pay for the knowledge thus acquired, or at least give their services as an equivalent for it. The medical student is not paid for learning his work, and the same rule holds good with various apprentices. When a nurse is certificated, and a skilled worker, then she should have a right to obtain adequate remuneration, and should co-operate to this end. The greatest kindness that "C.L." or any other person can do nurses at the present time is to teach them the necessity for, and the duty of, self-help.

I am,

Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

TRAINED NURSE.

A PRACTICAL POINT.

To the Editor of The "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you tell me how it is possible to obtain a varied experience in a three years' nursing training? I entered as a probationer in one of the largest London hospitals, thinking that I should in that way see the greatest variety of cases, but I find quite the contrary. For instance, for sixteen months I have been assistant nurse in an operation ward. The ward is under the care of one surgeon, and the same class of cases are admitted over and over again. No doubt one gets expert in attending to these particular cases, but one remains hopelessly ignorant of much that one ought to know. For instance, at the end of two years and six months' training I have had only one month's experience, and that as a probationer, in a medical ward. Then again, though I am working in an operation ward, I by no means see the operations which are performed on the patients whom I nurse. Not at all! All the serious cases go down to the theatre, and are brought back to the ward after the operation. All one has to depend upon as to what has occurred are the notes of the dresser, and—well, from what I gather from remarks at the bedside—I am sometimes inclined to think that the dressers go to sleep during the operations, and write up what they think ought to have happened afterwards. I do not want to grumble, and I am very happy in my work. At the same time, I feel that there is much that I shall be expected to know at the end of my training of which I am absolutely ignorant. It seems to me that the

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