

her smiling mask is her old grandmother, an ancient, faded replica of herself. It is with heartfelt interest one follows the fortunes of Kincaid's Battery, as it bravely fights its way through the long four years, first so proudly certain of victory. Even when that certainty is gone, fighting with undaunted courage to the bitter end. The one Northerner brought intimately before our notice is Fred Greenleaf, a fine character, Hilary's nominal foe, but his old time chum and good friend.

The description of Farragut's destructive progress up the Mississippi is given in masterly style.

E. L. H.

COMING EVENTS.

April 1st.—National League for Physical Education and Improvement. Dr. Dawson Williams on "Tuberculosis in Childhood: Its Cause and Cure," 35, Holland Park Avenue, W., 3.30 p.m..

April 2nd.—Meeting at Chelsea Infirmary, S.W., by invitation of the Matron, Miss Barton, to promote interest in the Territorial Nursing Service, 8 p.m.

April 3rd.—The Duchess of Albany opens the new Out-Patient Department of Royal Boscombe and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

April 7th.—A Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Wednesday, April 7th, 1909; at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA.

1. Minutes.
2. To receive Reports.
3. To make further arrangements for the International Congress of Nurses.
4. To consider Resolutions for the Agenda of the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses.
5. Other business.

April 14th to 17th.—Midwifery and Nursing Exhibition, Grafton Galleries, Grafton Street, London. Admission free.

April 16th.—Lantern Lecture to Nurses by Mr. Stephen Paget, F.R.C.S., on "The Results Obtained from the Latest Methods of Treatment in Various Diseases." Royal Society of Medicine, 20, Hanover Square, W. 3 p.m.

April 16th.—Inaugural Meeting, Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League, Out-patients' Hall, London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W., 6 to 7 p.m.

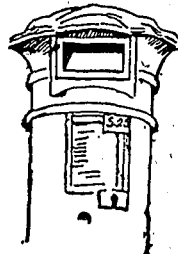
April 22nd.—Meeting, Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The best things are nearest; breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God just before you. Then do not grasp at the stars, but do life; plain, common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things of life.

ELIZABETH GIBSON.

Letters to the Editor.



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.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS OF NURSES.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—It was with much interest, and some envy, that I saw the illustration in the Journal last week of the Nurses' Final Examination in Melbourne. I hope the day may soon come when a similar scene will take place in this country. Those who know the stimulus of a central examination, in all branches of education, cannot but look forward to that day with longing. For my own part, during my school days, the incentive of working up for the Cambridge Local Examinations was a very real one. We were jealous for the honour of our school, and proud that the names of its pupils should appear at the head of the list, as sometimes happened, or, in honourable positions, in comparison with those of other schools. Personal honours, as was right, took a secondary place. The credit of the school was our first consideration, and we worked hard for it—an early lesson in public spirit. Moreover, we learnt to appreciate that good work was being done by schools all over the country, and to admire it wherever we found it, and when the distribution of honour prizes and certificates took place in the centre, where the examination had been held, what a pleasure it was to see, and to applaud, those with whom we had been competing, and who had won distinctions. When one entered a hospital for training how different it all was. A somewhat perfunctory examination, conducted by members of the medical staff who had lectured to us, and certificates, when gained, handed to us privately in the Matron's office. Perhaps that was the reason that so many nurses scarcely realised that any other certificates existed.

When I obtained my maternity training, once more there was the wholesome stimulus of the London Obstetrical Society's Examination, for it was before the days of the Central Midwives' Board. Incidentally I may mention that the teaching power of the training school was concentrated on the midwifery pupils, and the instruction given to the maternity nurses most perfunctory, because in the one case there was an independent examination in prospect, in the other none.

Again, the one thing in the Midwives' Act which is of unquestionable value is the central examination.

I notice, by the way, that constant attempts are being made to drag down the standard maintained by that examination, although it has been placed at the minimum consistent with safety. I sincerely hope that the Midwives' Board will never consent

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