

and a mouthful of cheese. She said as 'ow she always tried to give as little trouble as possible. and make no extry work as could be 'elped. She can eat very little through the night, so might she 'ave a fresh cup of tea brought to her at six, and she'd like 'er bath at eight; and if she might 'ave a light breakfast about 'alf-past nine—just a little Quaker oats and cream and some tea and bread and butter; and if there was a bit of cold meat—she wasn't set on bacon, but she was fond of a plain, soft-boiled egg in the country; or a mouthful of Devonshire cream and a muffin, and she 'oped you wouldn't be concerning yourself to make yourself anxious, ma'am, for she's got nearly everything she really requires except the night-light and a black blind for the window—them old-fashioned white blinds is no use. And will we please to wrap each piece of coal in tissue paper, and send up a pair of gloves—any old pair of master's gloves will do, she says—to keep quiet in the room; and the window must be open from the top, but that can be done to-morrow, she says, as it's not hung; and there's nothing else except the spirit-lamp and a shaded light, and two cushions—for the study arm-chair will do very well if she can 'ave a small footstool and a thick shawl and a fur coat." She paused to take breath.

"Very well, Joan," said the old lady, with a faint tremble in her voice; "if you just repeat the things again in order we shall see what we can arrange."

Is there not a strong family likeness between the modern nurse and her prototype?

The honours seem with Mrs. Gamp, for she certainly was the less exacting of the two.

P. G. Y.

#### COMING EVENTS.

*January 29th.*—Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. To form committees to further the Resolutions passed at the International Congress of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4 p.m.

*January 29th.*—Catholic Nurses' Association meeting. Convent of the Visitation, Harrow.

*February 3rd.*—Lecture on Milk, by Dr. Harden, F.R.S., followed by practical demonstrations. South-Western Polytechnic Institute, Manresa Road, Chelsea, S.W., 7.30 p.m. Fee for course, 2s. 6d.

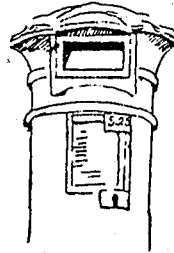
*February 9th.*—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture on "The Influence of the Mind Over the Body," by Mr. C. W. Cathcart, F.R.C.S. Extra Mural Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Nurses are cordially invited.

*February 15th.*—Written examination of Central Midwives' Board, in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Leeds. Oral examination a few days later.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Never say: "It is nobody's business but my own what I do with my life." It is not true. Your life is put in your hands as a trust, for many others 'beside yourself. If you use it well, it will make many others happy; if you abuse it, it will harm many others beside yourself.—JAMES M. PULLMAN.

## 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.*

### THE HOSPITAL NURSES' LEGAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

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

MADAM,—I have read the correspondence in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING between Lord Inverclyde and Mrs. Fenwick, I totally disagree with any of the advocates, who would place a nurse's certificate at the mercy of her Superintendent. I think there should be a central examining body, and that this body alone should have to be satisfied, and that the hospitals should be regarded only as are the Colleges of Oxford in relation to the University; that it ought not to be in the power of any hospital to grant certificates; and that anyone who has worked for three years in a hospital or hospitals should be eligible to appear before the central examining body. I disapprove wholly of the statement of the Hon. Sydney Holland, that the new system of centralised examinations, now adopted in every other rational profession, will not bring out certain qualities or defects in character. As long as examining bodies are sinful men, and not angels, no examination will. What qualities of character does the law agents', the M.B., the Board of Education examination bring out? And I suppose it is just as important that a lawyer, a doctor, or a teacher, controlling people's money, or lives, or children, be of good character as a nurse? Who ever heard of a medical student being deprived of his degree, or a lady teacher of her certificate, because they were rude to the head of their place of residence, or seen taking a glass of wine, or persisted in keeping a box of matches in their bedrooms?

Our association has only recently been formed, and with us Registration is not the main thing; at the same time, we would approve of any system of Registration that put it beyond the power of a Matron to deduct marks from a nurse's examination because she has broken some despotic rule about not using a candle, or not speaking to a house surgeon in the street, or some other silly nonsense. Similarly, I think we would oppose any system of Registration that insisted on a nurse having to win a certificate from her hospital, as opposed to a central body, or left the length of the training to be fixed by hospitals and not the central board.

It is as scandalous that a superintendent should examine his own nurses as that a solicitor should grant a degree in law (or refuse it) to his apprentice. At the same time, our primary object is not Registration. I did, indeed, ask Lord Ampthill to receive someone from our Association, and he said it was not within his power, and that he did

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