

Lecture Theatre, 3.15 p.m.; Social Gathering. Etherington Smith Ward and New Theatre on view.

November 29th.—Cleveland Street Branch Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League. "At-home." 4 to 8 p.m.

December 3rd.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh: Lecture, "The Treatment of Diseases by Bacterial Vaccines," by Dr. Struthers Stewart, Large Theatre, 4.30 p.m. Nurses cordially invited.

December 4th.—Trained Women Nurses Approved Society. Annual Meeting, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. 8 p.m.

December 4th.—Nurses Choral and Social League. Mrs. Carreg McCowan, the President "At Home," 50, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. 3 to 6.30 p.m.

December 4th.—The Nurses' Co-operation "At Home," The Nurses' Club, 35, Langham Street, London, W.; Show of the Nurses' Needlework Guild; Tea, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

December 10th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture: "Fever," by Dr. O'Carroll. 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 7.30 p.m.

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.

PRESERVATION OF TEETH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am deeply interested like many others, in the preservation of the teeth of school children in particular. In the issue of your journal dated September 2nd, 1911, in an article "The Bacteriology of Tooth Brushes," reference is made to the use of bass instead of tape. I should be glad if you could tell me if the bass is specially prepared and on the market, or, if not, what treatment it is to have before being fit for use. Dental silk is costly and out of the question, and if bass is an efficient substitute, we shall indeed have a valuable addition to the tooth brush.

Yours faithfully,

ELLA W. GREEN.

Hillingdon, Ashby Road,
Burton-on-Trent.

[We understand that ordinary bass may be used for the purpose, if first treated with a suitable disinfectant, and that for the sum of 1d. quite a large supply may be obtained. We are glad that the subject of the preservation of the teeth in school children is arousing increasing attention and interest. Nothing is of more vital importance to health in adult life than the preservation of the teeth, and in the past this has been much neglected.—ED.]

TREATMENT OF DECREPIT HORSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Recent disclosures concerning the trade in worn-out horses furnish horrible reading, and show that the rules made by the Board of Agriculture for regulating this disgusting traffic are somewhat of a farce. If, as one witness says, it is vastly better than it was two years ago, that only shows that there are degrees in cruelty even. The old abuses all apparently exist still, if the number of victims has been somewhat reduced, and if some boats and some men are not so bad as others. Mr. P. Carew Essex, who has recently investigated the conditions under which the traffic is carried on, says that "the accommodation is shocking," and gives details to substantiate his assertion.

There are "terrible sufferings all round." On one journey two horses, certified fit to travel, fell down in the night, and being too weak to rise had to be killed. In another place "there was no one besides the man who brought the horses to see that things were even decently conducted, and you may imagine the stamp of man who does this sort of work."

The poor creature, when condemned to death, is not spared even then, a metal button is put through the ear and clenched, to denote his fate, and the method of killing on some lines—with a hammer—is ghastly in its primitiveness. I doubt if it is realised by the English public that over 42,000 old horses are exported annually for slaughter abroad, and of this number (according to the Report of the Board of Agriculture for 1912) 17,027 were shipped from London, Hull, and other ports to Antwerp. Of these 16,988 arrived without injury. *The others died on the voyage.*

Why is this allowed to go on? we may ask. Presumably for the same reason that many other abuses are allowed to continue—because they have become a trade, and our legislators dare not interfere with trade, however immoral it may be. They make regulations, which it is no one's business to carry out, and the abuses go on as before.

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST BELL,

Editor, *The Animals' Friend.*

[We hold that no woman who does not really love animals, and actively sympathise with their sufferings, can ever rise to be the highest type of nurse for humans. We hope all our readers will, by every means in their power, try to lessen the terrible amount of suffering still callously inflicted on the dear and faithful beasts—such an example to us in their patient endurance and lack of vice.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 29th.—Mention some of the chief preparations of opium with their usual doses. What are the symptoms of an overdose?

December 6th.—In washing a newly-born infant for the first time, what would you specially observe, what abnormalities might you find?

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