

THE STAR CALENDAR.

Miss E. L. C. Eden, the hon. organising Secretary of the National Union of Trained Nurses, has issued a very charming Calendar for 1914. Printed in green on white, the motto *Per Ardua ad Astra*, and the Star badge of the Union appear on the cover. Inside the dates for each month are headed by an appropriate flower verse. Thus for January we find written under "A Bunch of Celandines":—

Waiting for Spring! Ah me, all Nature tarries,
As motionless and cold she lies asleep,
Wrapped in her green pine-robe that never varies,
Wearing out winter by this southern deep.
Waiting for Spring! The hearts of men are watching
Each for some better, brighter, fairer thing;
Each ear a distant sound most sweet is catching,
A herald of the beauty of the Spring.

COMING EVENTS.

January 6th.—Kensington Infirmary Nurses League. Annual Reunion of Nurses and Friends, Board Room. Tea 5 p.m. Service and address. Social Gathering, Sisters' Recreation Room. Presentation of Badges 8.30 p.m. Dramatic and Vocal Entertainment.

January 7th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture, "Venereal Diseases," by Dr. Elsie Inglis. Large Theatre on Surgical side 4.30 p.m. Trained nurses cordially invited.

January 14th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture, "Venereal Diseases," by Dr. Elsie Inglis. Large Theatre on Surgical Side. 4.30 p.m. Trained Nurses cordially invited.

January 22nd.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4.30 p.m.

KIND WISHES PASSED ON.

It is a good thing to be rich, and a good thing to be strong; but it is a better thing to be beloved by many friends.—*Euripides.*

Remembrances for the Past,
Kind Thoughts for the Present,
Good Wishes for the future.

We'll note you in our booke of Memorie.

Thy works, and alms, and all thy good endeavours,
Strayed not behind, nor in the grave were trod;
But as Faith pointed with her golden rod,
Followed thee up to joy and bliss for ever;
Love led them on, and Faith, who knew them best,
Thy handmaids clad them o'er with purple beams

And azure wings, that up they flew so drest,
And spake the truth of thee, in glorious themes,
Before the Judge; who henceforth bid thee rest,
And drink thy fill of pure immortal streams.

MILTON.

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.

URGENT CASES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with profound surprise the decision of the Committee of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, on the recommendation of the Hon. Medical Staff, that diphtheria cases, needing tracheotomy, are to be refused admission, the reason being that such admission is a menace to the other patients.

Surely such a decision is wrong, and every hospital ought to be able to provide for the admission of these urgent cases without endangering the safety of the other patients.

As formerly Matron of a hospital of about the same number of beds as the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, I can only say that we found it quite possible to make such provision. Of course, ordinary cases of diphtheria were, with all precautions, sent on to the nearest infectious hospital. But if a patient arrives with such urgent symptoms that the choice is between tracheotomy and suffocation the staff of every hospital should decline to condemn the patient to suffocation.

In the case to which I refer an isolation ward, always kept warm, and ready for emergencies, was immediately opened, and special nurses put on the case. If suffocation was imminent the operation might have to be performed in the outpatient department and the child moved to the ward afterwards; but this was a very rare occurrence, as the ward could be ready within twenty minutes of its being requisitioned at my office. But we should have considered it inhuman, and a failure of our public duty if, assuming the responsibilities of a hospital, the only consolation we had to offer to the distracted relatives who, trusting in our ability to help, brought a child to us whom immediate surgical intervention alone could save—and did save in a good percentage of cases—had been that we must consider the safety of the other patients and the child must die.

Surely it is the duty of hospital authorities to find an alternative solution.

Yours faithfully,

MATRON.

THE LIVING-OUT QUESTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Why discuss so silly a subject as the proposal for hospital nurses "to live out"? No one who really understands the needs of a hospital could propose such a wild-cat scheme. Nurses may have cause for discontent when the housing arrangements made for them

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