

COMING EVENTS.

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 15th.—Central Midwives Board Meeting, Caxton House. 3.30 p.m.

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

January 27th.—Central Midwives Board. Penal Cases. 2 p.m.

January 30th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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.

AN INDEFENSIBLE USE OF CHARITABLE FUNDS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As the proposer of the Resolution sent by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, objecting to the use of charitable funds by the Central Hospital Council for London, in financing its political agitation against the legal organisation of the Nursing Profession, I am greatly obliged for the clear statement published in our JOURNAL last week.

Frankly, I did not for a moment hope that this autocratic Council of men would consider a nurses' Resolution impartially, or take any action reflecting on the conduct of certain of its own members. At the same time the publicity given to the question through the press will do good. Firstly, by drawing the attention of those Committees forming the Central Hospital Council and their secretaries to the abuse, who may not have realised for what purpose the contributions were being used; and secondly, because knowing such expenditure to be indefensible and wrong, where subscriptions specially given for the use of the sick poor are concerned, we, as nurses, should have failed in our public duty if we had connived at it.

Nothing, in my opinion, weakens the moral fibre of a person more than—from lack of moral courage—to fail, in spite of the prompting of conscience, to protest against wrongs.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

Fallow Corner Home ELLEN B. KINGSFORD,
for Homeless Children, Hon. Sec.
N. Finchley.

THE RIGHT TONE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—There is the right tone through the article, "The Scarcity of Nurses" printed in your last. I quite agree with "M.A.F." that there is no life so free, happy and interesting, as that of a nurse in a well-regulated hospital. Long may I have health to continue to work in one. Life is rich even if we have not a penny.

Yours sincerely,

E. G. TOMKINS.

London.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have been invited to answer the following question:—

Question.—If a Matron made a few easily rectified errors in the dietary, and if the nursing staff, and some of the honorary medical staff, not only talked about it amongst themselves, but eventually reported it to the Board of Management, without the knowledge of the Matron, would you consider this being loyal or disloyal to the Matron?

Reply.—Good discipline demands that all matters concerning which the nursing staff consider they have just cause of complaint should be brought to the knowledge of their senior officer, the Matron; so that if she considers the complaint justified, and she has power to amend them, she should have the opportunity of doing so. If she has not such power it is her duty to place such complaints before the Board of Management who will deal with such details as they consider right. Under no circumstances is it justifiable (unless the Matron has refused to deal with complaints) for the nursing staff to enlist the co-operation of the medical staff, or to deal direct with the Board of Management. For the nursing staff to ignore the authority of the Matron in any detail of management pertaining to her department, proves a lack of confidence in, and loyalty to, their senior nursing officer.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 17th.—Describe your management of the patient's breasts in an obstetrical case from the moment her child is born.

January 24th.—Give a short description of the following diseases, with details of their general nursing and management (a) chorea, (b) acute meningitis.

January 31st.—What is a hydatid cyst? Mention the two commonest situations in which they are found, also the surgical emergencies which are likely to occur in connection with them.

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