

this war will bring political power to them? Let us hope.

"I can't feel any smallest interest any longer in the Red Cross. It seems to me only a part of the militaristic machine, helping to oil the hinges, just as organised charity protects poverty and helps to keep it existent. I loathe it all. Of course, nursing has always its reason for being, but the 'patriotism' and 'loyal fervour' of Red Cross Society people make me ill.

"We had a woman's parade here in New York, all dressed in black, to protest against war—not this or that war, but War. Women should go on a 'birth strike,' I contend."

A GRAND NATIONAL CONCERT

A Grand National Concert is to be held in the Albert Hall on October 24th, in support of the work for the wounded in connection with St. John Ambulance Association. Patti is to sing, and several other stars. The massed bands of the Brigade of Guards will make national music—with thrilling effect. It should be a great rousing occasion, and bring in plenty of money for the cause nearest to every human heart.

THE HOMES THEY LEAVE BEHIND.

We have received a copy of the song, "The Homes They Leave Behind," the music by Walter Rubens and words by Harold Begbie. It is sold for the benefit of the National Relief Fund, and we hope it may bring in a very handsome sum. Everywhere at the Halls they are singing it, and those who listen weep.

COMING EVENTS.

October 8th.—The Nightingale Oration, delivered by Miss Amy Hughes. Town Hall, Liverpool. 3 p.m.

October 8th.—Meeting Central Midwives Board. Caxton House, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

October 9th.—Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 3.30 p.m. Tea.

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

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

I am unable to find adequate words in which to express the admiration I feel for the magnificent conduct of our men.—*Sir John French.*

Strike for your Altars and
your Fires;
Strike for the Green Graves
of your Sires;
God and your Native Land!

—Hallack.

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.

ANTI-TYPHOID INOCULATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the South African War, in spite of anti-typhoid inoculation, there were 57,684 cases of typhoid among the British troops.

In the Russo-Japanese War (Oku's army, which did the severest fighting and had fully 60,000 wounded) there were only 200 cases of typhoid from the beginning of the war to the end of February, 1905, including the summer months of 1904. And yet there was no anti-typhoid inoculation.

The difference lay in the superiority of the sanitary equipments of the Japanese. Their soldiers had their camp kettles and water boilers always on hand.

Should our soldiers be asked to face the enemy on the plains of Europe and to undergo all the accompanying hardships of war, with the additional burden of fever and debility induced by inoculation? Will they fight the better for it?

I am, yours obediently,

WALTER R. HADWEN, M.D., J.P.

Gloucester.

THE MARTYRDOM OF CHARLOTTE PHIPPS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—The pathetic tragedy at the Barnet Poor Law Infirmary, noted in your columns last week and amplified in the account in the local press, of the inquest on Miss Phipps, must not be allowed to pass without bearing fruit for the many who are working under the same galling and stultifying conditions. Every trained nurse with whom I have spoken this week signified her desire to do something to alter that which is responsible for the martyrdom and death of Charlotte Phipps. If we cannot defend the means she used, we must at least see that here a—to quote terms used by the Coroner—"highly-strung, capable woman, exceedingly desirous of doing her duty in her profession," made her supreme protest. By so doing she has roused us, as perhaps nothing else could, to a just sense of the iniquity of the system which demands all that a cultured gentlewoman with training and experience can give to the Institution which accepts her expert service, whilst it denies her those very things on which the success of the Superintendent of Nurses, who bears the title of Matron, is based—selection and control of the nurses working under her, and a just recognition from the Governing Body, who acknowledge in her a superior officer. The resignation of those six nurses—one of whom, I see, had put in twelve years of service—is a fine vindication of the honour in which their Super-

previous page

next page