

## COMING EVENTS.

November 30th.—Ulster Branch, Irish Nurses Association. Lecture on "Vaccines," by Professor Houston, 7.30 p.m.

December 3rd.—Annual Meeting National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4 p.m.

December 5th.—General Meeting League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 3 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.*

## A HINT TO MATRONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Since we opened this private hospital (in a large country house) for convalescent soldiers, we have not employed any untrained nurses—all have certificates; but after some weeks' experience of them in my house, one sometimes wonders what "training" means. Do not mistake me—the nurses are quite good in their relation to the patients—but I would venture to suggest to Matrons responsible for training nurses that their system apparently leaves much to be desired in their personal habits.

This is a well-appointed gentleman's house, with usual staff of servants, &c., and their complaint of the untidy manner in which the nurses leave their bedrooms, everything scattered about, the manner in which table cloths are slopped with tea and coffee at meal times, and the necessity for brushing up the crumbs off my nice carpets after every meal, makes me wonder if such slovenly habits are permitted in hospitals. Surely personal cleanliness, neatness, care of household furniture, should be part of a trained nurse's equipment, and they should be taught to respect the belongings of host and hostess. Already more damage has been done in my establishment in a few weeks by "trained" nurses, than in years by my personal friends.

Yours truly,

A HOSTESS.

## PATIENTS' FAMILIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wish we might have an article on how to manage Patients' Families, as so many private nurses fail in this connection. I have a few notes dotted down at cases, and although people hate advice they may be of use to others. Here are a few: (1) One may be passée and unattractive, but don't forget that it is not only good looks of which dear ones may be jealous; don't absorb a patient, so that he or she depends too much upon you, to the neglect of those nearest and dearest; trained nurses are very

apt to indulge in this form of vanity. (2) Don't imagine that mothers ever really wish to stand aside—in all you do for children, if possible, include the mother's help; and realise how faithful children are; *you*, here to-day and gone to-morrow, can never detach their affections from their own Nannie; therefore, include her as far as possible in ministering to them. (3) Don't be pumped by "in-laws"; they usually want to know too much. I could go on quoting quite a bit, but should like to hear the experience of other private nurses—some succeed so wonderfully wherever they go—and they must meet with and overcome difficulties every time. I recommend THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING wherever I go; it keeps me buoyed up every week; it is more helpful than words can say.

Yours truly,

MEMBER R.N.S.

## OUR ADVERTISERS.

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## NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will encourage her friends to subscribe for it, so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support. Don't forget that it is the only weekly journal edited by a trained nurse, and which supports (1) an efficient standard of Nursing Education, (2) State Registration of Nurses, and (3) Just Economic Conditions for Nurses.

## WHERE TO GET THE B.J.N.

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## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

## QUESTIONS.

December 5th.—How would you prepare a normal salt solution for infusion in a private house?

December 12th.—What is acute nephritis? Name two causes. Outline briefly the treatment?

December 19th.—When is drainage used and why? (a) Name four methods and material that may be employed?

December 26th.—Define the words (a) sterile; (b) asepsis; (c) disinfectants; (d) sterilization; (e) what is most effective?

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