

COMING EVENTS.

January 1st.—New Year's Day.

January 14th.—Lecture by Mr. Allen S. Walker (Hon. Secretary, British Archaeological Association) on "Glimpses at the War Area in Europe," Sion College, Victoria Embankment, 3 p.m. Tickets from the Hon. Secretary, University of London Extension, at the College. 2s. 6d. and 1s. Profits for *Daily Telegraph* Belgian Shilling Fund.

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.

UNTRAINED NURSES FOR THE TROOPS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In reference to Lord Knutsford's letter to the *Times* on the 14th inst., there are two or three points to which I should like to draw attention.

1. Lord Knutsford states that "in most voluntary hospitals there are more untrained probationers than trained nurses." This, without further explanation is very misleading, for the facts are these—all nurses in the voluntary civil hospitals are called probationers until their course of training is completed. This, in most first-class training schools, takes three years (although Lord Knutsford's own hospital professes to train its nurses in two years), and, therefore the vast majority of the probationers nursing in these hospitals at any given time have already received from one to three years' training. Only the comparatively few new probationers can in any way be compared to the practically untrained Red Cross "nurses," and the duties of the new probationers are limited to quite simple matters and these under the direct supervision of trained nurses. From this it will be seen that the statement quoted above is contrary to fact.

2. No one would wish to deny the usefulness of the Voluntary helpers and Red Cross "nurses" if their work were confined strictly to that which would be given to the new probationers in the voluntary hospitals, but what we complain of is the very undue proportion of these helpers in some of the hospitals where our wounded soldiers are now nursed, resulting in responsible work being given them which should only be given to fully-trained nurses, and that responsible work being done too often without adequate trained supervision.

3. If it were impossible to obtain fully-trained nurses in these hospitals, we should be obliged to make the best of the untrained, voluntary helper, but there is, at present, a much larger supply of fully-trained nurses available than has been utilized by those responsible for the Red Cross and private hospitals, and we feel strongly that

the very best nursing *ought* to be obtained for the men of our fighting forces.

Yours faithfully,

F. G. STABB,

Member of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

A FINE EXAMPLE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you tell us how long the military nursing craze is likely to last? I am a patriotic old thing, but surely we have our usual complement of sick and suffering people with us who need our interest and care. But in these days we hear but little of them. I think the younger nurses who are staying quietly at home doing their daily duty in a bright and kindly way are setting a very fine example and deserve a word of encouragement and praise. They have my hearty admiration.

Yours truly,

A LADY GUARDIAN.

[We quite agree with "a patriotic old thing."—Ed.]

Our demand that our wounded soldiers shall be nursed by trained and skilled women, when sick and wounded, has aroused a lively interest in this question, both for and against. During the past week we have received several anonymous extremely amusing communications, and not desiring to enjoy alone the whole fun of the fair, we propose next week to share some of these irate effusions with our readers.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. B., *Cormackstown, Thurles*.—We advise you to write to the Matrons of the principal county hospitals and poor law infirmaries inquiring whether they have vacancies. Send a stamped envelope.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

January 2nd.—Mention some of the ways in which counter-irritation may be applied, and the methods of application.

January 9th.—State how to make and the uses of Pastes and Plasters.

January 16th.—For what conditions is tracheotomy done, and what instruments are required for the operation? Describe the after care of the patient.

January 23rd.—Discuss the management of a patient whose tongue has been excised?

January 30th.—Mention the most delectable drinks for invalids, and how to make them.

NOTICE.

We hope that all subscribers to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will make a point of sending their subscriptions to the Manager, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., early in the New Year; and that they will, if possible, secure, and send with them, other subscriptions, and so support the only weekly professional nursing journal in this country, as apart from those run as commercial speculations by laymen and untrained aliens.

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