

## COMING EVENTS.

*March 2nd.*—Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. Interview between official representatives and the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., and his advisers to discuss the Voluntary Nursing College Scheme, 83 Pall Mall, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

*March 8th.*—City Road Lying-in Hospital. Lecture, "Toxæmia of Pregnancy," by Mr. Gordon Ley.

*March 14th.*—The Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Annual meeting at 40, Cadogan Place. 3.30 p.m.

*March 16th.*—Central Midwives Board. Monthly meeting. 3.30 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.*

## THE NURSE PAYS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Kindly meant, no doubt, was the promise made at the Nursing College meeting by Mr. Stanley, that all those earning "their bread" in the Registration cause would be provided for under his new scheme; but is it possible that he does not know that we nurses have spent thousands and thousands of pounds in the past thirty years in making our claim for legal status, and protecting ourselves against injurious attempts to control our profession? Why, the Royal Charter, I believe, cost well over £1,000 alone. Then nearly every Nurses' organization is run by voluntary effort. It will be easy enough to pay for the "bread" we registrationists get out of the movement. I fear we shall never be repaid for what it has cost us in money, time, health and bitter disappointment, especially if, after all our work, we are to be deprived of the fruits of our labour.

Yours truly,

VOLUNTARY WORKER FOR TWENTY YEARS.

[We regret being compelled, for want of space, to hold over correspondence.—Ed.]

## WOMEN NURSES IN MALE WARDS OF ASYLUMS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Why should there be such a prejudice against the nursing of male insane patients by women nurses? Experience goes to prove that they can most usefully be employed in the male wards of asylums, and that the administration, tone and standard of nursing in such wards is admirable. Dr. G. M. Robertson, first at the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, and now at the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Morningside, has demonstrated this conclusively; and he

deserves the thanks of women asylum nurses for giving them their chance to prove their capacity in male wards, and the thanks of the patients, who certainly appreciate being nursed by women, and are often quite amenable to them, when they are difficult or even violent with male attendants.

I do not wish to be understood to disparage the work of male asylum nurses, much of it is admirable, and many of the male attendants devoted and conscientious. But after all nursing is eminently women's work, and what I wish to emphasise is that in the majority of male wards in asylums there is nothing against their employment. Quite the contrary. I think it is important to emphasise this fact in these days when men are needed to fight their country's battles. Many asylum attendants could quite well be spared if the services of women were utilized to the greatest possible extent as their substitutes. A friend of mine with much experience in asylum work tells me she would far rather nurse insane men than insane women, and many mental nurses are of the same opinion.

Yours faithfully,

THREE YEARS' CERTIFICATE.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Sister Amy, Manchester.*—The Nurses' Registration Bill provides for a three years' term of grace, so the sooner it is passed the sooner we can begin to build up the profession on a standard training and examination. If it had been passed as it should have been ten years ago, we should now have been a strong, recognised body of skilled professional women, instead of a chaotic mob with neither standards nor protection. Glad you have joined the S.S.R. Get all your certificated friends to do likewise. Unless trained nurses co-operate they may find themselves in a dangerously dependent position.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*March 11th.*—(a) What is intestinal colic? (b) What are the common causes? (c) What is the usual treatment?

*March 18th.*—Why has the Cocaine Habit such ruinous results to health?

*March 25th.*—What care should refrigerators receive? How would you preserve ice?

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on 9th and 10th March, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., or by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary. Candidates must be well educated, and hold a certificate for three years' general training, which they should bring for inspection. Experience in fever nursing and massage are additional advantages, also a knowledge of French.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)