

COMING EVENTS.

June 23rd.—Clapham Maternity Hospital: Annual Meeting, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., in the chair, Jeffreys Road, Clapham, S.W. 3 p.m.

June 26th to 30th.—General Lying-in Hospital, S.E., "Post-Graduate Week." June 26th, Reception by Matron and Staff. Tea, 4 p.m.

June 27th.—Council for the Promotion of the Higher Training of Midwives: Annual Meeting, Mansion House; the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, in the chair. 3.30 p.m.

June 29th.—National Union of Trained Nurses. Conference on "The Present Situation in the Nursing Profession," 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 2.30 p.m.

June 29th.—Imperial Nurses' Club: Drawing Room Meeting to secure wider interest, Sunderland House, Curzon Street, Mayfair, W. 3.30 p.m.

July 1st.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting. Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 2.30 p.m. Social Gathering in the Great Hall. 4 p.m.

July 10th.—Women's Local Government Society. Conference of Representatives of Affiliated Associations on the Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, 88, Lancaster Gate. 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 FEW HOME TRUTHS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As a Hospital Sister by profession, and one who has worked in a Military Hospital since the beginning of the present war, I feel I am in a position to make one or two comments on the letter in a recent issue signed "V.A.D."

In the first place I should like to say that this expression of arrogance and insolence must not be seriously taken as representing the views of the average V.A.D., if I may judge by the type of girl with whom I personally have had to do. I found her almost without exception cheerful, helpful, and willing to do anything required of her. No doubt many of them would make excellent nurses if they wished to train, but at any rate the majority have the sense to realise that nursing is a skilled profession, and as such deserves respect.

There is no trained nurse who has not worked hard for three years at least to acquire her position, and during those years of constant endeavour she has learned many useful lessons, possibly amongst them the knowledge that

unbridled snobbery and conceit are qualities that usually bring their owners into derision.

The "good manners" V.A.D. boasts of usually speak for themselves, and high breeding frequently deters its fortunate possessor from playing the part of a fool before the public gaze. The many advantages she has had might well have been expected to produce the virtues of modesty and restraint, along with the other inestimable ones she considers she has acquired.

The "leading doctors" who complimented her on "her skill and success" in dealing with "serious cases under her care," probably knew the type of woman to whom a cheap compliment is pleasing; truly it would be hard to find a better illustration of the old adage concerning a little knowledge and its dangers than this extraordinary letter furnishes. In closing I should like to remark that the qualities which a V.A.D. finds have made her so much preferred by the doctor and patient to the trained nurse are those very ones which the professional woman, alas! has had little time to cultivate. When we get an eight hours working day and the trained nurse has more leisure to follow her inclinations in the direction of the education that has produced so charming a specimen as V.A.D., we may hope to have more women of the type that she considers so admirable. Meanwhile, she might carry a little further the acuteness of perception that has enabled her to discern so clearly her own good qualities. She does not appear to have grasped that the system of long hours, much responsibility and over work is often to be blamed for the fact that the nurse is frequently robbed of her freshness and even the good looks "V.A.D." finds essential. The fault may not be all that of the individual. Education does not close with one's schooldays, and many a nurse has had, very sadly, to relinquish pursuits she would fain have followed up, but for which at the end of a long day's work she has neither energy nor opportunity. I sincerely hope the dawn of better things is at hand, and that, before long, a trained nurse may have time at her disposal to interest herself in affairs which touch the great world outside her small professional one. In the meantime may registration preserve us from this particular type of V.A.D.!

A TERRITORIAL NURSING SISTER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Writing from personal experience, I think the V.A.D. who wrote "Home Truths" must be an exception. All the V.A.D.s I have met have been charming women, doing all in their power for our wounded soldiers, many performing ward maids' duties, and though willing and anxious to help in every way did not wish to practise on "Tommy."

Many of them were married and they said they did not wish any amateur to nurse their husbands if they were wounded.

One very beautiful woman said, "I'll thankfully scrub floors and wash dishes till peace is

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