

THE ELECTORAL REFORM BILL.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SAFE.

The Government secured, as was expected, an overwhelming majority of 289 votes for the second reading of the Reform Bill on May 23rd, when only forty members voted against it. Such difficulties as have to be faced will confront the Government in the Committee stage, but as the women's societies are prepared to accept the compromise on female enfranchisement put forward in the Bill, and have shown their common sense in so doing, we do not anticipate any effective opposition to this long-delayed modicum of justice to women. We accept the Local Government qualification at the discreet age of thirty.

The new services franchise has met with no opposition. This makes it possible for men and women on foreign service who possess the above qualification to vote in the constituencies in which they would have qualified but for the war. Nurses who wish to become enfranchised must secure a Local Government vote. Those who are Matrons of Nursing Homes and institutions or rent houses or unfurnished rooms are in the happiest position for the time being their vote is secure. We advise all nurses to make inquiries as to their eligibility as soon as the Bill has passed all its stages and has received the King's assent.

There is little doubt that thousands of hospital nurses "living in" will not be included in the reform, but we all look forward to manhood, including womanhood, suffrage at no great distance of time. Then their turn will come.

COMING EVENTS.

May 31st.—The Irish Nursing Board, approved by the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland. Meeting to consider the By-Laws. Dublin.

June 2nd.—Irish Nurses' Association. Meeting Executive Committee, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 8 p.m.

June 7th.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Annual Meeting. Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., 4 p.m. Tea after the meeting by the kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer, 2, Portland Place, W.

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.

REAL REGRET.

To the Editor THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I learn, with very real regret that owing to Lord Derby's appeal for nurses to join the Q.A.I.M.N.S., the N.U.T.N. have decided to close their War Register.

I feel that as a means to an end, the War Register has more than justified its existence, both its inception and its conduct have been marked by useful and masterly organisation, and to me personally it is a matter of keen regret, that the ever changing condition of this ghastly war necessitates its demise.

The War Register was, to my mind, a striking example of the ever-present utilitarian methods which one always associates with the N.U.T.N., and the pleasing courtesy and consideration one was sure of receiving from every member of the staff made it a pleasure to call.

Yours faithfully,

M. F. TATTAM.

Rockfield, Llandrindod Wells.

SHOULD NURSES RECEIVE GIFTS FROM WOUNDED PATIENTS ?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I do not think there can be two opinions on the above question. Sisters and Nurses should certainly not receive presents from hospital patients, civil or military. May I also include Matrons, although it does not appear possible that such a thing would be contemplated. I enclose you a cutting, however, to show that it may occur. From it you will see that the Matron of a V.A.D. hospital, upon leaving after six months in office, received gifts from nurses, orderlies and patients. After a whist drive the doctor, on behalf of the nurses and orderlies, asked her to accept a purse containing £3 10s. in notes, and Private L— expressed the thanks of the patients and presented her with "a hand-mirror and other toilet requisites." Of course we all recognise the good feeling which prompts the bestowal of such gifts—but *ce n'est pas la guerre!* I hope with you that such presentations to Matrons and Nurses from military patients will be discouraged by the right authorities.

Yours faithfully,

SISTER Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondent, Derby.—We think you must mean I.C.T. not T.C.T. The former means Infection of the Connective Tissues, which is practically the same as septic infection of the skin (allied to but not the same as erysipelas) it is therefore to some extent infectious.

There is no need to say anything when presented professionally to your superior medical officer, and he salutes. Simply acknowledge the salute.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

June 9th.—Name some of the causes of the great mortality in infants, and how to prevent them.

June 16th.—What are the incubation periods of measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, enteric fever and typhus fever? Also state the common length of the diseases and the length of the period of infection.

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