

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

A great deal of new information about the compilation of the first register of electors under the Reform Act is given in a memorandum to registration officers and other documents recently issued by the Local Government Board.

Special interest attaches to a memorandum on the registration of the new class of naval and military voters. It has now been decided that this qualification shall be enjoyed not only by sailors, soldiers, airmen, merchant seamen, pilots, and fishermen, but by persons serving abroad or afloat in any war work of the following bodies:—

British Red Cross Society, Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, Scottish Women's Hospital, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry working for the British, Friends' Ambulance Unit, St. Andrew's Ambulance Association.

Other Red Cross organisations, such as the Australian, Canadian, South African, American, French, Italian, and Serbian Red Cross Societies.

Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army, Church Army, Scottish Churches Huts, Catholic Women's League, Catholic Club Huts, United Navy and Army Board, Soldiers' Christian Association, the Colonial and Continental Church Society, Navy and Army Canteen Board, Wesleyan Army and Navy Board.

### AGE QUALIFICATIONS.

Finally, a memorandum on the franchises defines a person's age as that on the last day of the qualifying period, which, in the case of the first register, is April 15, 1918. It follows, therefore, that persons born on or before the following dates will be qualified for the Parliamentary vote, as far as age is concerned:—

MEN (21 years of age).—April 15th, 1897.

WOMEN (30 years of age).—April 15th, 1888.

MALE NAVAL OR MILITARY VOTERS (19 years of age).—April 15th, 1899.

A motion to give women the right to sit in the Ontario Legislature, which was opposed by the Government, has been rejected.

Italy is to give women the vote.

Germany proposes to deprive, Finnish women of their political equality with men. Sure, as the Americans say.

The Swedish First Chamber has rejected the Woman's Suffrage Bill by 62 votes to 36.

### COMING EVENTS.

May 4th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Meeting Executive Committee, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, 8 p.m.

May 16th.—Central Midwives' Board. Monthly meeting, Board Room, Queen Anne's Buildings, Dartmouth Street, S.W. 2 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.*

### NOT A NATIONAL FUND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to endorse all that Miss Little says in her letter in your last issue.

The so-called Nation's Fund for Nurses has not the faintest claim to be regarded as a national fund. It is an appeal issued by a small committee of laywomen with a view to financing a new limited liability company, whose council is representative almost entirely of the employers of the nurses. During its existence of upwards of two-and-a-half years, this company has done nothing to justify its claims to collect what has been described as a debt due from the nation to the nurses, and to convert this to its own purposes. On the contrary, its policy has proved destructive rather than constructive, and is opposed to certain vital principles for which the organized societies of nurses stand. Moreover, the members of the Royal Corporation of Nurses, in general meeting assembled, and other organized societies, have given unmistakable evidence that they strongly disapprove of the lines on which the appeal known as the Nation's Fund for Nurses has been launched, and before giving, through it, their financial support to the College of Nursing, Ltd., members of the public should first, in justice to the nurses' interests, ascertain the views of the independent nurses themselves by applying for information to one or other of their organized societies as for instance, the Royal British Nurses' Association (10, Orchard Street, London, W.), the Society for the State Registration of Nurses (431, Oxford Street, London, W.), the National Union of Trained Nurses (46, Marsham Street, London, S.W.), the Scottish Nurses' Association (103, Bath Street, Glasgow), and the Irish Nurses' Association (34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin).

The members of all these self-governing organizations are fully awake to the danger to their independence, from a company of socially influential persons, subsidised by public charity, obtaining control of the organization of the Nursing Profession; and as a body of highly-skilled professional workers they appeal to the public to protect their economic interests.

ISABEL MACDONALD  
(Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association).

### LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—“A Member of the Leicester League,” in her letter in your issue of April 20th, appears to have written on hearsay, which is

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