

were defeated by a large vote. One, moved by the Opposition, proposed that the age for voting should be raised from 21 to 30, the argument advanced being that this was the policy adopted in Great Britain. This was rejected at the instance of the Government.

Australian women have asked for federal sanction for the formation of an Australian branch of the Queen's Women's Army.

THE DOWNS.

Here all is quiet, the deepest stillness reigns
In this green solitude, and all the pains
And griefs of life are for a little lost.
Freedom is ours, we may forget the cost
Of living and for one quick hour live,
Taking the solace which the old downs give.
Dry those sad tears, lift up your eyes and look!
The country lies beneath us like a book
Spread open, and we two may read
Its joy. Watch how the white sheep feed,
Wand'ring, upon the flower-strung grass;
See how the great cloud-shadows pass
Across the vales, across the hills;
How one small lark the wide air fills
With his incessant song; how grows
Thyme, milkwort, and the gold rock-rose;
Catch the bright, warm sunshine in your hand;
Feel the clean wind straining across the land—
Cast from your soul the evergrowing pain,
Content that God has brought us here again.

GUY RAWLENCE.

(From "Covent Garden and Others.")

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"I met no Pacifists and no Pessimists among them."

The message I bring from the British Army to the people at home, 'Be of good cheer. We are all right.'

—The Prime Minister after his visit to the Armies in France.

COMING EVENTS.

May 13th.—National Baby Week Council. Lecture. Baby Week, its Objects and its Future. Miss Alice Elliott. Chair: Mrs. H. B. Irving, Dr. Williams' Library, 14, Gordon Square, W.C. 5.30 p.m.

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

May 17th.—Guy's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League. Annual Meeting and Eighth Annual Dinner. Nurses' Home. Dinner 7 p.m. Meeting 8 p.m.

June 4th.—Central Council for District Nursing in London. Conference on Maternity Nursing, Board Room, Metropolitan Asylums Board, Embankment, E.C. Sir William J. Collins, M.P., M.D., K.C.V.O., in the chair. 5 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 GLORY OF OUR BART.'S CERTIFICATE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—There are rumours throughout the nursing world—and more particularly at St. Bartholomew's Hospital—that the nurses, when their three years' training is up, are to be examined by the College of Nursing Company, and that the glory of our Bart.'s certificate is to be a thing of the past, with behind it the devoted services of women—religious and lay—for upwards of 800 years! Can you tell me if it is true that the staff nurses, after serving for the Bart.'s certificate for three whole years, are to be compelled to be examined by and become members of the College, as provided by its tyrannical Constitution, and be controlled by it for the length of their professional lives, liable to be turned out, without appeal, "as the Council may, in its discretion, think proper?" For, if so, it appears an outrageous proceeding.

If the Treasurer and Almoners have, even in ignorance and not of *malice prepense*, entered into this unholy alliance with the promoters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., without the consent of the staff nurses and probationers, then it is time a strong public protest was made by every member of the Bart.'s League worth her salt, as the nurses at this hospital are forbidden to discuss their own professional affairs. If the examination was a State Examination under an Act of Parliament, with State Registration to follow, that would be an entirely different thing. Such a system would give the nurses status and professional protection; but to be compelled to be examined by and governed by an outside lay-promoted Company is entirely opposed to the professional feeling of many Bart.'s nurses, and they would like to know how they are to proceed to avoid it?

Yours sincerely,

A CERTIFICATED BART.'S NURSE.

[We advise our correspondent to apply to the Clerk to the Governors for official information on this question. Since receiving this letter, we have ourselves asked for information from the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and received the reply published herewith. We agree that no Hospital Committee has a right to compel its trained nurses to place themselves under the direction and control of any Limited Company to which they object. Those uncertified workers contracted to serve the hospital for a specified period and in return, if they passed the School Examinations successfully, they were to be awarded a Certificate of efficiency from the authorities of the hospital, and to be free to accept future service as

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