

understand:—"What freedom there is," he says, "let us share and share alike . . . let it be for women as for men . . . let it run healthily through the whole body!" For these unpopular opinions he is put in the pillory and pelted with sticks and stones. The last chapter of this remarkable book is the most pathetic. The French Revolution—the Reign of Terror—year 1791.

Espérance and Jean Merlin, friends of little children, spoke of freedom in the Jacobin Club, the freedom of men, and the freedom of women. Accused of plots and of succouring foes, they were thrown into prison with other innocent people. While awaiting their turn for the guillotine the people in the prison "talked of freedom; it seemed it was the unimprisonable thing."

It will repay anyone who is in any sense a *thinker* to read this wonderful book, which seems so applicable to the present time, when the whole world is striving for freedom.

B. K.

### COMING EVENTS.

*January 17th.*—Scottish Nurses' Association. Meeting of Members. 2.30 p.m. Lecture, "The Expectant Mother and the Diseases She is prone to." By Professor Munro-Kerr. 7.30 p.m. Scottish Nurses' Club, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow.

*January 18th.*—National Union of Trained Nurses. Meeting of London Branch. Members will relate their war experiences on the different fronts. Lantern slides. Non-members invited. 3, Vere Street, 3 p.m.

*January 23rd.*—College of Nursing, Ltd. Meeting to explain its Nurses' Registration Bill. Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. 8 p.m.

*January 24th.*—Matrons' Council. Annual Meeting and Reception, Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, W. 3 p.m.

*January 30th.*—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture: "Ten Thousand Years of Civilisation." By Professor Flinders Petrie. (This lecture will be fully illustrated by lantern slides.) Rooms Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W. 2.45 p.m.

*January 31st.*—St. John's House League of Nurses. General Meeting. 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury. 3 p.m.

#### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD. ENGLAND.

*January 23rd.*—Penal Cases, 10.30 a.m. Monthly Meeting, 3.30 p.m. (at conclusion of Standing Committee). 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W. 1.

*February 4th.*—Examinations, London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds and Liverpool. The Oral Examination follows in a few days' time.

#### SCOTLAND.

*January 27th.*—Examination, qualifying for admission to the Midwives Roll for Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

## 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 GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am taking the liberty of writing to ask if you would air a grievance, or, at least, what I consider an injustice to R.N. Pension Fund annuitants, in your paper—THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—in not giving the annuitants any bonuses since 1912, and also the miserably small amount they receive from the Donation Bonus Fund.

I will just state my own case. I am one of the second thousand; in 1891 I received, at Marlborough House, from Queen Alexandra, a certificate, in which it is stated I would be eligible to participate in Donation Bonus Fund, which at that date reached the figure of £40,000. All the reports since then give glowing accounts of the increase in the money and congratulations to policy holders on the increased valuations, and we were promised substantial additions to our pensions.

I have been looking over my profits:—

1902.	Donation Bonus Profit..	2s.	9d.
1907.	" "	1s.	9d.
1912.	" "	1s.	0d.
		5s.	6d.

in sixteen years.

I joined for a pension of £15 per annum twenty-seven years ago, and have been paying for that pension £4 19s. per annum. The Profit Bonus Fund, together with the *fat* Donation Bonus Fund, bring my pension to £17 4s. 3d. per annum.

The Pension Fund was specially started to give trained nurses, in their old age, as large an annuity as possible, and I, as an annuitant, fail to see that the object is carried out. I have written to the Secretary of R.N.P.F., but do not consider his reply satisfactory—in fact, rather evasive.

Yours faithfully,

HELEN RYAN.

17, Eversfield Road,  
Reigate, Surrey.

### "TAINTED MONEY."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Many people will sympathise with the views of your correspondent about the "tainted money" derived from the profits of the so-called "Victory Ball." To thousands besides myself the thankfulness with which we greeted the Armistice was shadowed by the memory of dear ones who will never come back, and the idea of

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