

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL TO STATE REGISTRATIONISTS.

IT COULDN'T BE DONE.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that!
At least, no one ever has done it."
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

(Edgar A. Guest, Author of "Sunny
Songs.")

COMING EVENTS.

April 29th.—South-Western Polytechnic Institute, Manresa Road, Chelsea, S.W.: First of Course of Lectures on "Milk and Milk Products," by Mr. Cecil Revis, A.C.G.I., F.I.C., F.C.S. 7 p.m.

April 30th.—Matrons' Council Quarterly Meeting. Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E. 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

May 1st.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Inspection of Banner and Royal Charter. Piano, Miss Gladys Collier. 10, Orchard Street, Portman Square, W. Tea 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

May 1st.—National Union of Trained Nurses. Annual Council Meeting, 46, Marsham Street. 2.30. Reception, to which members and friends of the Union are cordially invited (tea, 8d.) 5 p.m.

May 2nd to 8th.—Health Week.

May 5th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Sixteenth Annual Conference and Meeting. University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.

May 7th.—St. Paul's Hospital, 13A, Red Lion Square, Holborn, W.C.: First of a Course of free Lectures to Nurses and members of the Allied Professions, on "Venereal Diseases," by Mr. Leonard Myer, F.R.C.S. 5 p.m.

May 8th.—Fever Nurses' Association. Annual Meeting, Croydon Town Hall. Dr. R. Veitch Clark, President elect, will deliver an address. 2.30 p.m. Tea by kindness of Mayor and Corporation, Croydon Fever Hospital.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM AUCKLAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Congratulations on the passing of the Nurses' Registration Bills, the passing of which I read with keen interest in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING which arrived here last week. The nursing world owes you a debt of gratitude for the strenuous way you have worked for over thirty years for State Registration. It is splendid that the Mother of Parliaments now recognises nursing as a Profession, not a pastime.

The greater part of last year I was in charge of a contingent of trained and registered New Zealand Sisters, sent by request of the Federal Government, Melbourne, to nurse the influenza epidemic. The work was strenuous but most interesting, and the help given by trained women was deeply appreciated.

Again, with heartfelt thanks for all the hard work you have expended on us all and the interest you have taken in our welfare.

Yours very sincerely,

S. E. POLDEN.

An Old Bart.'s Nurse.

Bombay, Auckland,
New Zealand.

FOR AND AGAINST THE USE OF PROPHYLACTIC PACKETS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was pleased to see the announcement of the subject for competition in your issue of April 3rd (prophylaxis), and think it would be well if we could hear several opinions on this subject—both for and against.

It is a problem which must be faced by all humanitarians; and although a moral and social rather than a medical question, yet the public look to doctors and nurses for a lead.

To quote the prize-winner: "Humanitarians have to consider the safety of large numbers, especially of the innocent, rather than the advisability of salutary individual experience."

But I feel we have to boldly face a more definite question than that, viz. :—

"Do we wish the packet system introduced into civil life? Do we desire our youths instructed that Government provides centres where, after practising immorality, they can rid themselves of evil consequences?" Should we approve the teaching of a schoolmaster or father who taught, "You must never forge a cheque; nevertheless, in case you find you have to do it, or have done it, I will teach you how best to disguise your writing and to erase signatures."

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