

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN'S PAPERS.

The high price of printing and paper does not appear to have damped the ardour of women in entering the field of newspaper production. The *Woman's Leader* (62, Oxford Street, W.1), with which the *Common Cause* is incorporated, has recently been launched as the organ of the "National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship," price 2d., and is excellently produced; and now the Time and Tide Publishing Co., Ltd., have issued a fourpenny weekly to be known as *Time and Tide*. The aim of its promoters is to establish a journal which shall be at once readable and interesting, and which, while it does not confine itself to any one field, but comments on or records any events of passing interest, yet takes special notice of certain matters hitherto slightly neglected. The chairman of the Board is Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D., the vice-chairman, the Viscountess Rhondda. We wish all success to the new venture.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

To-day is your day and mine; the only day we have; the day in which we play our part. What our part may signify in the great world we may not understand, but we are here to play it, and now is our time.—*David Starr Jordan*.

Decision of character outstrips even talent and genius in the race for success in life.

When the outlook is not good, try the uplook.

VERSE.

If you were busy being kind,
Before you know it you would find
You'd soon forget to think 'twas true
That someone was unkind to you.
If you were busy being glad,
And cheering people who are sad,
Although your heart might ache a bit,
You'd soon forget to notice it.

—REBECCA D. FORESMAN.
From *The Canadian Nurse*.

COMING EVENTS.

May 28th.—Guy's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League. Twentieth Annual Meeting and Twelfth Annual Dinner. Nurses' Home, Guy's Hospital. 7 p.m.

May 29th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture on "Civic Duties and Responsibilities," by Councillor Beatrice Kent. 3 p.m. Presentation to Miss Margaret Breay. Tea.

June 4th.—Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4.30 p.m.

June 5th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. "Grind" on "The Procedure of Conducting Business Meetings." Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. 3 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.

PRIVATE NURSES AND CO-OPERATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In a paragraph of your issue of the 22nd inst., *re* the "Forty-eight Hour Week for Nurses," you say:—

"We disapprove of nurses in private practice being included . . . because private nurses are free agents, and need not undertake more arduous duties than necessary, for any prolonged period; that is to say, if they work on the co-operative principle, which they should do."

I can assure you that private nurses are in no way free agents. So long as there is an age limit fixed by Associations and Limited Liability Companies for the nurses they take on their staffs, so long will nurses be slaves. The age limit is from thirty to thirty-five, and as soon as it is passed the Superintendents can sweat their nurses as much as they like, as they know they cannot leave and join other institutions.

I can tell you of cases where nurses, ill, tired and over-worked, are *compelled* by their Associations to take work when they are not able for it. There are few private nurses who cannot give it as their practical experience. If they persist in their refusal to take a case, the Superintendent can, and often does, penalise the delinquent by keeping her two, three or four weeks without work.

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary Professional
Union of Trained Nurses.

[We expressed the opinion from personal experience as Hon. Superintendent of the Registered Nurses' Society (co-operative) for twenty-five years, and we repeat that, if working on really *co-operative principles*, private nurses are free agents, in so far as any workers can be. We do not consider it possible for many trained nurses to make a living in private practice if they are included in the Hours of Employment Bill—that is, that they may not work for more than forty-eight hours a week. *The public will not employ them*; but will make shift, perhaps to their detriment, with a less skilled attendant, especially as only well-to-do people can now afford private nurses. A really comprehensive scheme of sickness insurance must first be organised for the middle and upper classes before private nurses can do justice to their patients and work for only forty-eight hours a week. This is the opinion of a very large majority of private nurses whom we have consulted on the question. At the same time, there is little doubt that the majority of Nurses' Co-operations are so only in name.—ED.]

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