

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Wonders will never cease! The serious National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland is to hold a *Thé dansant* in aid of the funds, by kind permission of Lady Nunburnholme, at her beautiful new house, 41, Berkeley Square, on January 14th, and the ballroom newly decorated, is loaned for the purpose. Lady Mainwaring and Lady Nunburnholme are responsible for the idea of giving a Bridge party for those guests who do not dance. Why should not the affiliated nurses make up a party? The National Council could do much more important national work if it had more funds.

The Council is organising several conferences at the office and one arranged by the Legislation Committee will discuss "Suggested Homes for Incipient Lunatics," Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, on Wednesday, 15th, at 3.30 p.m. The President, the Countess of Selborne, will be in the chair. We nurses know what a tremendously important question this is to many suffering soldiers, whose nervous systems have been wrecked and broken in the war. It is good we should realise the terrible conditions of these brave men, and do what we can to promote alleviation. Our duty is to suffer with them and work for them. The attitude of so many women in not facing the aftermath of war is heartless and demoralising.

Viscountess Rhondda, who is a peeress in her own right, has petitioned the King to issue to her a writ of summons to sit in the House of Lords. The petition is now at the Home Office, where it is to receive the consideration of the legal authorities.

Princess Christian recently opened, at 81, Lancaster Gate, the first of the Helena Residential Clubs for women working or training in London. We learn that the Helena Hostels will treat residents with the same courtesy which a properly-run hotel gives to its guests. There will be no rules to start with, and every resident will have a latchkey. All the rooms are light and airy, but for the need of space many are arranged in cubicles, the charge for which is 30s. a week. Single rooms cost more. The dining room is arranged with small polished tables to seat four, and there is a comfortable smoking lounge and a silence room. There is central heating and facilities are provided for laundering small articles. The 30s. includes morning attention to room (with the exception of bed-making), breakfast and dinner every day, with tea on Saturday and four meals on Sunday. Help from the funds of the Service Women's Association with which the scheme is amalgamating, will probably lead to other suitable houses being acquired. Miss McCall Anderson, R.R.C., is the general superintendent.

COMING EVENTS.

SCOTTISH NURSES' CLUB.

A series of lantern lectures will be given in the Scottish Nurses' Club, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow, by Dr. McGregor-Robertson, on the following dates:—

(2) "Application of Principles of Food to Adult and Infant," Friday, December 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

(3) "Diet and Disease," Friday, December 17th, at 7.30 p.m.

December 11th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. The Winter General Meeting. Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 2.30 p.m. Social gathering, Nurses' Sitting Room.

December 15th.—Trained Nurses Annuity Fund. Sale of Work, 67, Eaton Place, S.W., by kind permission of Mrs. Montague Price. Opening by H.R.H. Princess Christian, President of the Fund. 12 noon.

December 16th.—Central Midwives Board Monthly Meeting.

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.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR IRELAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to an editorial article in the issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, dated 27th ult., on the subject of the rules made by the Nursing Councils regarding the registration of existing nurses.

Speaking on behalf of the Irish Nursing Council, I would like to correct the impression conveyed in the article that the proposals made by the Irish Council are "undesirable."

Our Council, when framing their Rules, desired to lay down the highest possible standard for admission, and were of opinion that one year's approved hospital training should be the minimum qualification for admission of an existing nurse to the Register. However, in consequence of a direction given to them by the Irish Government on the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown under Section 3 (2) (c) of the Act, the Council are compelled to include in their Rules a saving clause empowering them to admit nurses who, even although they have not had a year's training, can prove to the satisfaction of the Council that they possess adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick.

The Council would have preferred to retain the condition of a year's training, and have laid down

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