

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Miss E. Almaz Stout, a professional journalist has been elected President of the Society of Women Journalists. This is as it should be. That societies of professional women should run around and elect society women to their leading Executive positions always appears to us a sign of great weakness—or inefficiency. We have plenty women journalists in these days to whom honour is due.

Miss Olive Catherine Clapham, of the Middle Temple, has passed the final Bar examination. She is the first woman to do so.

### VERSE.

Here, where my window taketh in  
The sweet of night, that doth begin,  
Not difficult to me it seems  
To shut my eyes and look for dreams.  
And when the sun doth shine instead  
On the white linen of my bed,  
To rise and wash, to pray, to dress,  
Do seem a daily blessedness.  
And all day long, as I about  
The loved house go in and out,  
The streams, the grass, the sweet daylight,  
Do take my hearing and my sight.  
Thus do our days, not always, go:  
O too much happy, were it so!

*From "Terpsichore, and Other Poems,"  
by H. T. Wade-Gery.*

### COMING EVENTS.

*June 4th.*—Royal British Nurses' Association "At-Home" to the members of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, and Residents at the Settlement. Tea, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.

*June 4th.*—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. A General Meeting of the League will be held in the Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Saturday, June 4th, at 3 p.m.

At 3.45 the Meeting will resolve itself into a Social Gathering in the Great Hall, with music by members of the Nursing Staff, arranged by Miss Eyre. At 4.30, Mr. Allen Walker will give a short introductory lecture as a prelude to a series of six Lantern Lectures on "Old London and its Story," to be given in the Autumn.

*June 5th.*—American Nurses' Memorial at Bordeaux.—Laying of Corner Stone of New Florence Nightingale College and Home for Nurses, Bagatelle, Bordeaux, by Miss Helen Scott Hay, Chief Nurse, American Red Cross Commission to Europe, 3.30 p.m.

*June 11th to 25th.*—Nurses' Missionary League Summer Camp, Sandsend, Yorkshire.

*June 25th.*—Royal British Nurses' Association. Annual Meeting, 3.30 p.m., 194, Queen's Gate, S. W.

## 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.*

### CARE AND DISINFECTION OF BEDPANS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—*Re* Care and Disinfection of Bed-pans. At my training school, Union Infirmary, Edmonton, N., now the North Middlesex Hospital, N., a deep sink was provided near each sluice, where once every day the junior nurse of each ward had to thoroughly cleanse with soap and water, all the bed pans. Cyllin and carbolic were obtained by applying to Sister.

The bed pan cupboards are built into the outside walls and are thoroughly ventilated, having perforated zinc walls. Clean pan covers were supplied as often as required. We were supposed to keep four forward at a time.

Yours faithfully,

H. TONG.

Brighton Terrace,  
Blackpool.

### MORE SPACIOUS SPHERES FOR THOUGHT REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your issue of the 28th ult., under the heading "Nurses and Trade Unionism," you state that "thousands of nurses have been influenced and some compelled to join the College of Nursing (Limited) by their Matrons."

From my personal experience, I can fully endorse what you say. Not only are nurses compelled to join the College of Nursing by their Matrons, but they have also been compelled against their will, to resign from their Unions.

The Professional Union of Trained Nurses intends, whenever possible, to make public these cases, as it is manifestly unfair for any Matron, because she is a "College" member, to influence nurses one way or the other.

A case in point: it was suggested some little time ago to a member of our Union (who had become a temporary prison official), by the Lady Superintendent of the hospital of the prison in which she worked, that she should resign from this Union. As there was no other course open to her, under the circumstances, she resigned under protest. When the matter was reported to the P.U.T.N., the Prison Commissioners were approached, and we have recently received a letter stating "that there is no reason why nurses employed in the Prison Service should not retain membership of their Professional Union, and the Commissioners regret that through a misunderstanding, the Hospital Lady Superintendent suggested to \_\_\_\_\_ that she should resign from her Union." I publish this, as I hope it will do away with a great deal of misunderstanding,

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