

DISTASTEFUL TO MANY NURSES.

Speaking editorially, *The Canadian Nurse*, the official organ of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, says:—

"The appeal all over Canada from Lady Martin Harvey for money for nurses in England has brought forth protests from nurses everywhere, in Canada as well as in England. It is to be regretted that the feeling of the nurses should not have been taken into consideration before a wholesale appeal for money for them was made. It is anything but a commendable effort to help; and one which every nurse should resent most emphatically. If nurses in England are in the financial state that Lady Martin Harvey would lead us to believe, then why not see that they are paid enough by Government and other employers to enable them to stand on their own feet and not be the subject of such appeals, which are degrading to the State-recognised profession of England?"

"Why nurses should be subjected to such humiliating experiences is hard to understand. Perhaps, if the College of Nurses, Ltd., whose receipts, we understand, are being given out to those answering the appeal, was composed, as it should be, of the nursing profession only, such things would not be. Those who are really interested in nurses and the future of the profession know that we are as capable as any other profession of handling our own affairs and staging our own appeals if we wish to have them made. Whatever Lady Martin Harvey's ideas or wishes were in this matter, we think that she has been most unwise in continuing an appeal that is so distasteful to many nurses, both in England and Canada."

Let us hope this will be a lesson to ladies of the dramatic profession—when on tour abroad—not to depreciate the status of other professional women by begging in their name without their consent. We thank our Canadian sisters for their emphatic repudiation of Lady Harvey's pauperising policy.

COMING EVENTS.

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

June 28th.—London Federation of Infant Welfare Centres Annual Meeting. The Mansion House. In the Chair: Sir Henry Harris, K.B.E., M.P.

June 29th.—Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society (Approved Society), Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 5 p.m.

July 6th.—North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton. A solemn Memorial Service for Nurses who died on Duty during the Military Occupation. 3.30 p.m.

NOTICE.

Members of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society should note the date and endeavour to attend the Annual Meeting at 431, Oxford Street, W., on June 29th, at 5 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.

VENEREAL DISEASE CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to "A Venereal Sister," may I point out that it is not correct to say that the advocates of venereal prophylaxis, including self-disinfection, were not heard at the North European Conference on Venereal Diseases. I understand that representatives were present from Berlin, Dresden and other places where prophylaxis and self-disinfection is most blatantly advertised, and the testimony of the medical men from these places was to the effect that venereal disease was rising, and thousands of fresh cases are continually coming in.

I hold no brief for the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, but I do think it is a very excellent thing that these Conferences are not attended merely by medical people. The whole problem of venereal infection is so closely bound up with moral, emotional, and ordinary human factors of personal character, that it is an excellent thing that lay men and women should have an opportunity of expressing their views in important conferences. I may add that I am of opinion that the lay women sent round the world by the National Council did very valuable work in advising on, and making suggestions with reference to, the improvement of recreational and physical conditions in all the various ports.

The self-disinfection society here seems only too anxious to make use of the help of lay women, and it can do their propaganda no good for any of its members to write in the somewhat acrimonious tone adopted by "A Venereal Sister."

Yours faithfully,

ALISON NEILANS, *Secretary,*

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

Orchard House,

Gt. Smith St., S.W.1.

[Perhaps "A Venereal Sister" will reply to Miss Alison Neilans' criticism of her letter. We gathered she considered that, in selecting delegates from Britain to the North European Conference on Venereal Diseases, the British Red Cross should have taken care that delegates were selected from both the Societies organised against Venereal Disease, and not from the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease alone. We agree with "Venereal Sister" that it was quite unnecessary to send the lay Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the National Council round the world together at the taxpayers expense, and with her we think it would be interesting to know what we had to pay for what appears to have been in these hard times a very enjoyable tour for these officials.—Ed.]

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