

## MESSRS. W. H. BAILEY & SONS' SPECIALITIES.

We have pleasure in drawing attention to the many specialities of interest to nurses of Messrs. W. H. Bailey & Sons, of 38, Oxford Street, and 2, Rathbone Place, London, W.1. Of particular interest to district nurses and midwives is their celebrated midwife's case with original fall down front, the special value of which is that when the front is let down the midwife has a clean and safe surface upon which she can immediately arrange the contents of her bag for use, though the surroundings may not be above suspicion. The convenience and utility of this when a nurse or midwife on arrival finds that the patient is urgently in need of attention is obvious.

The case, when closed, is neat and compact. It may be had empty in rexine at 33s., or in cowhide at 51s. 6d. The size of table space with flap extended is 17 ins. by 18½ ins., and it has a removable washing lining.

It can also be fitted with the necessary instruments and appliances in rexine, at 60s. and 58s. 6d., according to size, and in cowhide at 81s. or 79s.

It is a case to be commended, as the makers have taken into consideration "Safety First," and have further provided a very useful article at a very moderate price.

### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

As I gird on for fighting  
My sword upon my thigh,  
I think on old ill fortunes  
Of better men than I.  
In dust the round world over  
The golden lads are low  
With hurts not mine to mourn for  
And shames I shall not know.  
What evil luck soever  
For me remains in store,  
'Tis sure much finer fellows  
Have fared much worse before.  
So here are things to think on  
That ought to make me brave,  
As I strap on for fighting  
My sword that will not save.

—A. E. Housman.

### COMING EVENTS.

May 17th to June 15th.—Nurses' Missionary League at Missionary Exhibition, "Africa and the East," Agricultural Hall, Islington.

May 19th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, Ministry of Health, Whitehall. 2.30 p.m.

May 22nd to 26th.—Tenth Annual Post Graduate Week. General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, S.E.

May 24th.—Empire Day: Flag Day in support of the Combined Appeal for the Hospitals of London.

May 25th.—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.*

### TOO MUCH POMP.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—When I wrote to you expressing the opinion that there was no necessity for members of the Royal Free Hospital Nurses' League to have special facilities for registration, and that the General Nursing Council had *no right* to delegate its statutory powers to irresponsible persons, such as League secretaries and others, and take their unverified statements for gospel, and that such interference might lead to coercion I did not expect to arouse discussion in the Press. I am, however, glad to avail myself of the opportunity of replying to the letters of Miss Little and the "Member of the Nursing Staff" who appears to have a somewhat misty notion of real freedom. I am not a member of the Royal Free Nurses' League because I do not approve of its atmosphere. The first silly thing it was persuaded to do was to come out of the National Council of Nurses, because the Council would not kow-tow to the College of Nursing, Ltd., and thus cut us off from associated membership with the International Council of Nurses, the policy of which I highly approve and am greatly interested in, and by joining another society, am pleased to be in touch with. These unassociated Leagues of Nurses are far too self-centred and narrow.

Thus, Miss Little's suggestion that before expressing an opinion on the policy of the G.N.C. the "right procedure" would have been to "approach" her, is little worth. And why "approach"? I am not a diffident person—I should "approach" Royalty, but not a fellow nurse. That is the style of things in hospital—too much pomp. I am not for it. Then "A Member of the Nursing Staff" presumably approves of the neglect of duty of the G.N.C. and risking an inaccurate Register, by shuffling off its responsibilities to people not entrusted by Parliament to compile our Register. If these people have not time or inclination to institute an efficient documentary system in the office, then let them get out, so that people may be elected with more sense of public duty. This "member" does not begin to understand what "freedom" means, and I hope she will tell us, through the B.J.N., just what steps the Royal Free League did take, when its President, with unparalleled arrogance, proposed to deprive the whole nursing profession of their documentary evidence of proficiency—their certificates on the Register. If these documents are too sacred to pass through the post, then why confiscate them at one "fell scoop"? Greater inconsistency could not be imagined.

And now that I am at it, may I express my strong indignation that the members of the G.N.C.

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