

shared by the other ladies of the party. Night fell before the exhausted women, unaccustomed to walking, again reached the carriages that conveyed them home.

The wailing and gnashing of teeth that went on was positively indecent. The ladies-in-waiting were suddenly metamorphosed into red-hot rebels, the guests into revolutionaries raging at sovereigns whose outrageous whims transported them against their will to a well-nigh inaccessible mountain top.

But the adventures were outrivalled by those in the next picnic at sea in the "Seagull," when the whole party was in imminent danger of being drowned. Even the Empress felt nervous when at length she stepped on shore. Seeing the Emperor, who was anxiously awaiting her, she went straight up to him. "Our picnic has not been much of a success," she said.

He answered sharply: "There must be an end of these escapades." The Princess describes the appearance of the whole party as "like nothing on earth."

The visit of King Ludwig I of Bavaria to the Paris Exhibition caused great amusement to the vivacious Princess. His eccentricities were known all over Europe.

"I was presented to him at St. Cloud, where Their Majesties were in residence and where a large party was held in his honour. I remember the general consternation that followed on the entrance of King Ludwig.

"The Emperor Napoleon, accompanied by all his Ministers, advanced to meet him. 'May I be allowed to present these gentlemen to your Majesty?' he asked.

"The King, without a moment's hesitation, replied: 'Certainly not! It would bore me to death.' The Emperor roared with laughter, but the Ministers returned to their places looking uncommonly small."

Another anecdote of him relates how he told the mother of three daughters (a lady of his acquaintance) that "they might be very good girls, but they were remarkably ugly."

The volume concludes in a far different strain—the fall of the Empire—and we regret that space will not allow us to quote from these sad passages. But to those of our readers who are able to obtain the book, our advice is—Read it. H. H.

ETERNITIE.

O yeares! O Age! Farewell:
Behold I go,
Where I do know
Infinitie to dwell.

And these mine eyes shall see
All time, how they
Are lost i' the sea
Of vast eternitie.

Where never Moone shall sway
The starres; but she,
And night shall be
Drowned in one endlesse day.

Herrick, 1591-1674.

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.

HIGH TIME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think I am correct in saying that the Minister of Health has power, under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, to decide what the necessary clerical staff shall consist of for the carrying on of the business of Registration. When it becomes essential to appoint a lady at a salary of £250 per annum to do the work that certain members of the Council were doing without cost to the nurses, and when a staff of some 18 or 19 is necessary in order that about seven thousand nurses may be placed on the Register, is it not time for them to approach the Minister and ask him to apply the guillotine?

Yours faithfully,

W. PAUL.

Regent Square, W.C.

A REGARD FOR ECONOMY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The methods of the General Nursing Council are not such as commend themselves to the ordinary mind possessing a regard for responsibility and for economy. An important duty of the Council "to form and keep a register of nurses" is first relegated to a Registrar. A personal friend of the Registrar is then made her secretary at a salary of £250 per annum, despite the fact that the Standing Finance Committee withholds its approval to the creation of the office, and that this Secretary has had no secretarial training. Such a method of selection would not be allowed for the appointment of even an assistant matron to any reputable hospital. Then steps are taken to ensure that the recipient of the salary is, after elimination of other applicants, in the opinion of the body who appoints, the best obtainable. There appears to be at headquarters a systematic oblivion that the money spent so ruthlessly on staff comes out of our pockets. The sooner we nurses are allowed to manage our own concerns the better. I greatly deprecate the high-handed and unbusinesslike procedure which now obtains.

Yours faithfully,

ELLEN B. KINGSFORD,

54, Westby Road,
Boscombe.

Registered Nurse.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE CONGRESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR.—I spent part of my holiday at the Royal Sanitary Institute Congress this year, as I also did in 1920 and 1921, and I find it well

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