

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Queen Mary received the LL.D. degree of Aberdeen University on Tuesday.

Later she formally opened Rowett Institute for Research in Animal Nutrition, erected at a cost of £50,000.

Captain F. L. Barnard, the Instone Line's chief pilot, flying a D.H.4A machine, last Saturday won the great air race round Britain for the King's Cup. What we may specially note in this connection is that Captain Barnard is a triumph for abstemiousness. He does not drink alcohol, he does not smoke. He started in the war as a "Tommy" in the Seaforth's. Careful, quiet, deliberate, he is a magnificent pilot. A superlative Air Force is now an imperative need for national safety. *Let it rip!*

At the Loch Maree Hotel poisoning enquiry the jury found that the eight deaths were all due to food poisoning through the eating of sandwiches containing wild duck paste affected with the bacillus botulinus. They decided that no fault was attributable to any person or persons.

COMING EVENTS.

September 22nd.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W. 2.30 p.m.

September 25th.—Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. Introductory Lecture to the Students in the several courses of Lectures arranged by the Institute for the Autumn Session by Louis C. Parkes, Esq., M.D., D.P.H., Chairman of the Council. Admission free. 5.30 p.m.

September 25th to 29th.—National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. Annual Meeting and Conference. Guildhall, Cambridge.

September 30th.—Meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council and Delegates from Nurses' Organisations: To discuss the forthcoming election of Registered Nurses' Representatives on the General Nursing Council. 431, Oxford Street, W. 5 p.m.

October 3rd, 10th & 17th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses: Lectures. Tickets from Miss Baines, Nurses' Home, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

October 6th.—"Our Day and the Prince's Day," in support of the London Combined Appeal for the Hospitals.

October 7th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Lecture by Major Rigg, O.B.E., on "London's Guilds, Past, Present and Future." 4.15 p.m.

October 20th.—Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, E.: Nurses' Reunion. Apply to the Matron.

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"You are all looking to Mesopotamia and forgetting the mess up at homia."

—Mr. T. Cusack, Trade Union Congress.

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.

SMOKING IN BED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to thank you for stepping forward with a word of warning to Nurses on the habit of smoking, which is akin to drug taking. Why it should be associated with emancipation and broad minds puzzles me, as I thought it a sign of weakness of character, merely to do anything from bravado. As for Matrons setting the example, it seems almost incredible, as it lessens their authority and counteracts all advice on self discipline.

Is "Sarah Gamp" to revive?

Yours truly,

REBECCA STRONG.

Neish, St. Fillans,
Perthshire.

RESIDENT COTTAGE NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I have to-day received a copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of September 9th, which contains a paragraph marked for my special attention, criticising the resident system of cottage nursing practised in certain parts of the county of Northumberland.

I need hardly say that the criticism is a familiar one, referring to one of the many difficulties which have constantly to be faced by those responsible for District Nursing Associations working on the resident system. Practical suggestions for an alternative method of meeting the needs of isolated patients would be welcome.

Perhaps you will allow me to suggest that a county nursing association with many years' experience in both visiting and resident systems of district nursing, under the exceptionally varied conditions involved in serving a population ranging from mining and industrial communities to isolated shepherds in the hills, would scarcely continue to employ this resident system in certain localities without strong grounds for doing so.

The question is a difficult one, requiring for its decision considerable experience of local conditions and of the practical working and results of this particular branch of district nursing in given localities.

I can assure you that it is not owing to ignorance of modern views on this subject that we preserve the resident system in certain areas of this county; nor does this "lay governed" Association fail to employ first-rate professional assistance for its management.

If the subject is of sufficient interest to our critics I would ask them to examine the question on the spot, and would gladly give them every facility in my power for so doing.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)