

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Since from the Members' Gallery in the "Commons" we watched Lady Astor deliberately walk out of the House when a question of the utmost moment to the Nursing Profession was down for discussion, when the late Minister of Health thrust through Parliament Rules cutting at the root of right and justice for nurses, and when we failed to locate Mrs. Wintringham in the House at all, although both ladies had been instructed on the question, we have had our doubts if, after all, rich and leisured women really grasp underlying economic principles, where the workers of their sex are concerned. Anyway, all the time we have had to spare for election work—and it is not much—has been hall-marked for Major Barnett, who did our profession invaluable service during the last Parliament.

We do sincerely regret, however, that Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon has withdrawn from contesting Canterbury, action taken, we believe, in the interest of the National Liberal Party. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon is a brilliant, understanding woman, who, we feel sure, would have made an admirable Member of Parliament, and would have championed just conditions for nurses and been found in her seat when their interests were under discussion.

By request of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the 8.30 Mass in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Cathedral will be offered on polling day, November 15th, "to beg divine guidance for men and women electors."

"NO GLORY GREAT ENOUGH . . ."

The following "In Memoriam" notice appeared in the *Times* on November 2nd:—

ALL SOULS.—To the glorious and immortal memory of THE FIRST SEVEN DIVISIONS, Mons to Ypres, 1914.

Oh, little Force, that in your agony
 Stood fast while England girt her armour on,
 Held high our honour in your wounded hands,
 Carried our honour safe with bleeding feet,
 We have no glory great enough for you.

* * * * *

Oh, little mighty Force, your way is ours,
 This land inviolate your monument.

COMING EVENTS.

November 11th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Lecture by Dr. Helen Hanson on "Women and the Ministry of the Church." 3 p.m.

November 17th.—Meeting General Nursing Council, Ministry of Health, Whitehall. 2.30 p.m.

November 25th.—West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, Nurses' League Winter Re-union. Tea 3 to 5 p.m.; Dinner 7 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.

THE PRESTIGE OF PRIVATE NURSING.

AN APPEAL TO PRIVATE NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was present at the Meeting, on November 2nd, at 11, Chandos Street, London, to hear the Election Addresses of Independent Candidates nominated to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and with many private nurses present was astounded to learn, in reply to a question from a member of the audience that at the Meeting recently held at St. Thomas' Hospital to nominate members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for every seat, that the lady selected to represent the great body of Private Nurses throughout England and Wales was an Uncertificated Nurse partly trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh!

I have seldom addressed a communication to the Press, but am now urged to do so in support of the prestige of Private Nursing, and in repudiation of the contempt with which it has been treated by the College of Nursing, Ltd. It is now twenty-nine years since the Registered Nurses' Society was founded on co-operative principles, so that nurses trained for a complete course of three years and certificated in General Hospitals might associate themselves together in private practice, giving to the public and the medical profession the guarantee of the best training procurable tested by examination, and securing their own fees less a small percentage for management. Many other Private Nurses' Societies are now working in London and throughout the country on these high professional and ethical standards, and apparently it remains for the College of Nursing, Ltd., to depreciate the prestige of Private Nursing by nominating as good enough to represent us on our Governing Body, the General Nursing Council, a partly trained and uncertificated nurse!

I ask, what are the Private Nurses (to whom one seat has been secured on the G.N.C.) going to do about it? Are they going to stand aside and permit the College to inflict this grave injury upon the status of our branch of nursing work, or are they going to co-operate and prevent it? I sincerely hope they will take the latter course, and if I can be any help to them in this crisis my services are at their disposal.

May I be permitted to inform the Private Nursing world that Miss Alice Cattell, holding a certificate for three years' training at St. George's Hospital, London, has been nominated as an Independent Candidate for the Private Nurses' seat on the General Nursing Council. Miss Cattell was nominated as a Member of the first Council by Dr. Addison, and has faithfully done her duty

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