

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Queen Alexandra has been with us for six decades, and the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's marriage with the late King Edward VII will fall on Saturday this week. We possess a fine coloured print of her after a celebrated picture, in diaphanous robes—a vision of perfect loveliness! just as she appeared as Princess of Wales, on her bridal visit to Belvoir Castle in 1864. As a little girl we attended a meet of the Belvoir Hunt, on the following day, and remember, as clear as crystal, the laughing Prince and the melancholy Duke of Rutland (the uncle of the present peer), as they moved off, riding close behind our carriage, and the charming smile bestowed by the former on our very pretty elder sister, dressed in her bright crimson "Connemara" cloak, with black velvet "pork pie" hat poised on her bobbing gold-brown curls.

Sixty years! Or, was it yesterday?

### PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS IN COURT.

A woman summoned on a jury at the City Coroner's court last week was not allowed to act. Dr. H. J. Waldo, the coroner, pointed out to her that he did not want a woman in the jury-box and could always get plenty of men. There being sufficient men to form the jury, the woman's services were not required.

### SLEEPY SICKNESS.

Last week 40 cases of sleepy sickness (encephalitis lethargica) were notified in England and Wales. There have been 171 cases, 31 of them in London, in the last ten weeks.

The Ministry of Health states that this is the ordinary seasonal rise, the maximum usually being reached in January and February, after which there is a rapid decline.

### COMING EVENTS.

*March 10th.*—The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N. 3 p.m.

*March 16th.*—Meeting, General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Ministry of Health, Whitehall. 2.30 p.m.

*March 17th.*—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture on Sir Christopher Wren, by Major Rigg, O.B.E. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 3 p.m.

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"As far back as my memory takes me in manhood I never remember to have accosted a student without saying to him, Work and persevere; work is really pleasure, and it is the only thing which is profitable to the individual, to the citizen, and to the State."—*Louis Pasteur.*

## 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.*

### A FEW WORDS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A "Few Words" from the Chairman at the last meeting of the G.N.C. seem to demand a "Few Words" from a Registered Nurse, since the new Council remained silent. Sir Wilmot Herringham informed the Council that they were a Statutory Body, and hoped they would feel they were not a Trade Union (not an imminent danger with the present Council), but that they were set up for the good of the public. For that reason the Minister had appointed—and rightly appointed—on the Council persons who were not nurses.

Then he went on to say that the constitution of the Nursing Council was more favourable than that of the General Medical Council, because the nurses elected 16 members out of 25, and the Medical profession only 5 out of 35.

What a misleading statement.

Presumably the General Medical Council is a Statutory Body set up for the benefit of the public. Nevertheless it is composed entirely of members of the medical profession, even the Privy Council, which is by custom kept unfettered in its nominations, has never ventured to appoint anyone except medical practitioners. Would Sir Wilmot Herringham and Sir Jenner Verrall think, if the Privy Council nominated ladies of title and other lay persons, ignorant of medical matters, on to the General Medical Council that it was "rightly" done? I feel sure both gentlemen would strongly resent such appointments.

Parliament has given nurses the status of a legally constituted profession, and there is no reason why we should be governed by unskilled and ignorant persons, so far as our expert work is concerned, than that the medical profession should be. Further, there will be no peace until we govern ourselves.

Yours faithfully,

REGISTERED NURSE.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION.

*March 17th.*—Describe the nursing of a case of enteric fever. What complications may arise, how would you endeavour to guard against them, and what would you do if they occur?

*March 24th.*—What do you know of sleeping sickness, and the nursing points in caring for a case of this disease?

We regret we are unable to award a prize this week, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)