

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### THE WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The Women's Section of the British Empire Exhibition has issued a comprehensive little leaflet, "Women and Wembley—the British Empire at Home." It is announced that between July 21st and July 26th, a "Women's Week" is being organised by the women of the Dominions, in order to present in attractive form to the British public the chief activities and interests of women in the various Overseas Nations.

The International Council of Women has erected a special pavilion of its own in the grounds, in which millions of organised women will be represented in which Conferences on Education and questions affecting women's interests will be held. The Anti-War Conference is arousing widespread interest.

### "CHRIST OF THE ANDES."

The following interesting paragraph, which appeared in a recent issue of "Outward Bound," is of special interest at the present time, when a Conference, convened by the International Council of Women, is about to meet at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, to discuss the Prevention of the Causes of War.

"In the Easter of 1900 Argentine and Chile were on the brink of war with each other. But the Easter message and its appeal to a new relationship between men and nations, preached by an Argentine Bishop with all the zeal of a prophet, seized the imagination of his fellow countrymen. Then a Chilean bishop heard of the movement and took up the Evangel, and thereon both Bishops set out on a pilgrimage through their own lands preaching peace and reconciliation. Under the tremendous pressure of public opinion the two governments were compelled to take steps to consider the establishment of a permanent peace, with the result that they concluded an unconditional treaty of arbitration. Professor Gilbert Murray has told the story of what followed:—

"Since that time the two Republics have signed arbitration treaties with other Powers; their arms are reduced to the numbers needed for police; their warships sold or converted into merchantmen. The grand arsenal of Chile has been made a great technical school and the money thus saved is devoted to public works, railways and housing schemes. But most important of all is the change in the attitude of the two nations to one another from exasperation to trust and goodwill. They have tried the pacifist experiment and proved it a success. It had been the hope of the preacher whose words had prevented the war in 1900 that some day Christ would be seen, standing over two reconciled peoples. And the hope has been fulfilled. The guns of the frontier fortresses, now no use, were taken down and melted in the arsenal of Buenos Ayres, and cast into a great bronze figure of Christ. The Government itself undertook to carry it up 13,000 feet to the mountain top. It was taken by train as far as the rails were laid, then drawn on gun-carriages by mules to the summit; and where even mules failed at the ascent soldiers and sailors dragged it up with ropes. On March 13, 1904, it was dedicated to the world in the presence of vast crowds of civilians and soldiers from either side of the frontier; the Argentine soldiers encamped by invitation on the Chilean side, and the Chileans on the Argentine side. Martial music and the thunder of the guns proclaimed the inauguration of the law of peace. The statue was unveiled in profound silence, and at sunset the two peoples fell to prayer together for the peace of the world."

## 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.*

### NURSES AND THE HOSPITAL PROBLEM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—At the Labour Conference on "The Hospital Problem," held in Caxton Hall, on April 28th, I was the only person who was so interrupted that I could not make my points.

A statement I wished to make, and which Lord Knutsford denies, is that a nurse resigning from the London Hospital has to find guarantors who would pay up to £150 if she leaves before completing her four years. I quote a portion of a letter written to me by Viscount Knutsford on August 8th, 1922:—

"I cannot understand your saying that you have never seen in any of our papers about the guarantors. Every nurse on entering has to get two guarantors who will undertake to pay—if she does not—£100 if she leaves the Hospital of her own accord after we have boarded, lodged, washed for her, and taught her for seven weeks at our preliminary Training School—and it is added that this £100 only covers the preliminary training at Tredegar House and must not be taken as compensation to the Hospital, if she signs an agreement to stay four years and breaks that. All this is set out clearly on the papers sent to probationers. Their attention is specially drawn to it when they sign, and I speak to every set before they come in (every seven weeks), and draw attention to this. . . . But if she signs, we are surely right in demanding that, if she breaks her agreement, she shall compensate the Hospital by repaying what it has actually spent on her. . . ."

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM, S.R.N.,

Hon. Secretary Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

[We are of opinion that Miss MacCallum was treated with scant courtesy at the Labour Party's Conference, and we beg to thank Dr. Morgan for his emphatic protest to the chair in this connection. As a protest against the antagonistic spirit expressed from the male "benches," and the unfair manner in which Miss MacCallum was interrupted on the platform, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and the nurse delegates of the National Council of Trained Nurses gave the Chair notice that they would not attend the Conference on the following day. We learn that on Tuesday, presumably influenced by this action, the nurses present were invited to take part in the discussion, but that nothing of any constructive value was advanced. The Labour Party must realise—which it does not apparently do—that there can be no satisfactory solution of the Hospital Problem without drastic nursing reforms. Self-determination must be accorded, as it is to the medical profession—and just conditions of work and pay provided. At present, the Government services, such as the Ministry of Health and the War Office, are very poor employers. The free nurses' organisations are anxious that a Select Committee should be set up to consider the whole nursing question—and, unless this is done, we fear the type of woman offering herself as a probationer will continue to deteriorate, greatly to the detriment of the sick, and that even then the great shortage of applicants will continue.—ED.]

### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"RENDER TO CÆSAR THE THINGS WHICH ARE CÆSAR'S."

A Pioneer Nurse in the Far East writes: "Our Nurses' Association is growing and some have felt the need of a translation of some of the lives of pioneers in medicine

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