

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

We welcome home His Majesty the King, and also the report that his cruise in the sunny south has completely restored him to health. London feels all the happier to have the Royal Standard flying at Buckingham Palace.

It is officially announced that the King, who will be accompanied by the Queen, has consented to open the new British Empire Exhibition on Saturday, May 9th. The opening ceremony will take place in the Stadium.

The day chosen for the opening of the Exhibition will be the fifteenth anniversary of the proclamation of King George V as King.

How time flies!

Great preparations are going forward at "Wembley" and this year is to be marvellous. A truly imperial Exhibition of industry and art, to which we shall all pay many visits.

The Prince of Wales has written a letter commending the work of the British Empire Exhibition Fellowship in helping to foster a family feeling among the people of the Empire.

The Women's Committee is hard at work under the Presidency of the Duchess of York. Imperial family feeling, helpfulness and hospitality are the mainspring of its activities.

The honorary secretaries of the Women's National Memorial to the Women of the Empire have received an intimation of the intention of the National Council of Women of Canada to organise special services throughout the Dominion in memory of the women of the Empire who laid down their lives in the Great War. The services in Canada will be held simultaneously with the unveiling ceremony of the restored Five Sisters' window in York Minster on June 24th.

The International Council of Women is holding its Quinquennial Meeting at Washington, U.S.A., from May 4th to 14th. This should be a specially appropriate city in which to further the interests of the Council—as it was at Washington in the year 1888, that the late Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indiana, proposed its organisation—which she advocated with such wonderful eloquence at the World's Women's Congress at the Chicago Exposition in 1893. We think it is high time the International Council of Women put forward some scheme in which to commemorate the creative genius of May Wright Sewall in founding the Council—American women please note.

The Ulster Election sent one woman, Mrs. Chichester, to its new House of Commons. She was elected as one of the five members for Derry County and City.

Under a Bill passed by the French Chamber votes are given to women of 21 in provincial and cantonal elections. The Bill also confers upon them the right of being elected to those bodies. French women are the best business women in Europe. Surely it is time they had the Parliamentary franchise.

The U.S.A. for the first time in its history, has appointed a woman, Miss Lucille Atcherson, as member of the Diplomatic Corps. She has been assigned to the American Legation at Berne.

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.

RECIPROCAL TRAINING

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Meetings of the Matrons of the Children's Hospitals of England and Wales were held at the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E.2, by the kind courtesy of the Board of Management, on November 26th, 1924, and on February 25th, 1925. The object of these Meetings was to consider the shortened period of training in a General Training School for State Registered Sick Children's Nurses as laid down by the General Nursing Council. Up to the former of the above-mentioned dates little help or encouragement had been extended to the Training Schools for Sick Children's Nurses in this matter by the Matrons of General Hospitals.

It was decided at the first Meeting to circularise all existing Nursing Societies and all General Training Schools for Nurses, so as to obtain their opinion with regard to this question, which is of such importance to the future of Children's Hospitals. It was thought advisable that no drastic steps should be taken until the existing Nursing Societies and General Hospitals had been individually approached and asked to give the matter their serious consideration.

The response to this circular letter was more encouraging than had been anticipated, and we are now able to say that forty-three General Training Schools in London and the Provinces were willing to accept State Registered Sick Children's Nurses for a period of training shortened by one year, and in nearly every case existing Nursing Societies expressed the opinion that they were in sympathy with us in this matter.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

A. M. BUSHBY,

Matron, Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road.

A. M. COULTON,

Matron, East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell.

J. SMALES,

Matron, Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

One interested in Public Health draws attention to the danger of "allowing tubercular patients to come in contact with non-tubercular, and what is worse than all that the Nursing Staff should sit at meals with these patients and use the same crockery." She writes further:—"One knows only too well that the present-day institution maid is not so very thorough in washing up. Also in hospitals and infirmaries we know it is made clear that all T.B. patients' utensils are to be kept separate, neither are such patients allowed to associate with others.

"It would take a long time to convince many members of the Nursing Profession that it is unnecessary to take the precaution of keeping these patients away from others, and also their utensils separate."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

What is meant by (a) Amenorrhœa, (b) Dysmenorrhœa, (c) Menorrhagia, (d) Metrorrhagia?

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