

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Not only the nation, but the Empire is indebted to the *Times* newspaper for opening a fund, having for its object the preservation of St. Paul's Cathedral, and for the splendid result attained, the fund standing now at over £200,000.

Our contemporary in an interesting article on "The Cathedral in History," states that "three churches of St. Paul have stood in succession on the same site—the Saxon church of St. Mellitus, the Norman church of Bishop Maurice and the Conqueror, commonly called in its different reconstructions, 'Old St. Paul's,' and the St. Paul's of the Restoration and of to-day." Round the Cathedral national history has centred, and "through the Middle Ages St. Paul's was above all else, the Cathedral of London City; the church at which its magistrates, its guilds, companies and citizens paid their corporate and their individual worship . . . St. Paul's is still, as it has been for thirteen centuries, the chief centre of prayer and worship for London. So it will remain while England remains a Christian land."

An important step was taken on Tuesday last at a meeting held in the Vestry of the Cathedral, which was attended by the Dean and Chapter, the Trustees of the Fabric (the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Mayor of London, and the Bishop of London), the Cathedral architect and the expert advisers, the Editor of *The Times*, and the Chapter Clerk, when it was resolved:—

"That a Committee be formed consisting of the Dean and Chapter with the Chapter Clerk, the Treasurer of the Fabric, and the Cathedral architect; the expert advisers; one member nominated by the Ecclesiastical Commission, one member nominated by the Royal Institute of British Architects, and one member nominated by the Institution of Civil Engineers; and not more than four members—men of recognised public standing—co-opted by the Committee."

Considering the amount of financial assistance given by women, we suggest that a woman of recognised public standing might appropriately be added to the Committee.

Mrs. Stanley Baldwin and Mrs. Neville Chamberlain showed their practical sympathy with a movement for the provision, at a cost of £200,000, of a Social Centre in London for girls and women engaged in business, and the professions, by recently attending a meeting at the Mansion House, of women interested in the work of the Young Women's Christian Association, the Lady Mayoress presiding. It is anticipated that about 5,000 girls and women will use the building in the course of the day, the number who pour into London each morning, bound for offices, shops, and warehouses being estimated by the director, Miss Snelson, at 800,000. Mrs. Stanley Baldwin promised to give an "At Home" shortly at 10, Downing Street, to help the movement, and Mrs. Neville Chamberlain anticipated that the Social Centre would do a wonderful amount of good, and would be a great contribution to the national well-being by developing healthy-minded women.

We are glad to note that the Secretary for Scotland has appointed a Committee with the following terms of reference:—

"To inquire into the subject of sexual offences against children and young persons in Scotland, and the procedure followed in dealing with such cases (including methods of prevention and the after-care of the victims of such offences), and to report what changes, if any, are desirable in the law or its administration, and in the matters of prevention and after-care."

The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. Ernest E. Parker, Exchequer Chambers, Edinburgh.

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 PAGE OF NURSING HISTORY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Thank you for publishing that "Page of Nursing History" in the "B. J. N." of January, 1925.

Nurses, above all others, require inspiration to keep them going. Will it be published in booklet form, with sketches of the founders, and distributed among our international sisters at Helsingfors?

You and Miss Isla Stewart were imperial pioneers when you blazed the trail for registration, but with the International Council of Nurses you planted an acorn which will overshadow all other Leagues in the days to come.

I have never been free to attend the meetings abroad, but I well remember the thrill of that sunny morning in the Caxton Hall, London, 1909, when "*Miss Isla Stewart answered Mr. Sydney Holland!*" We were sleepy "Night Pros." entering "Smithfield Gate" (after our morning walk) when a taxi passed us, and a voice that would have led us through "no man's land" called: "Come to the Caxton and back me!"

We went, and the vision of that morning has carried many of us through life.

Later, we watched Matron's 700 guests as they crossed "the Square" to be lost amid the lights and murmurs of the Great Hall, and the word went round that "Matron said it was her happiest day."

To quote the Swiss motto: *One for all and all for one.*

Yours gratefully,

"BARTS."

Cannes, Alpes Maritimes, France.

TESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In connection with the police tests for drunkenness, concerning which some prominence has been given in the public press of late, may I draw your attention to an experience of my own which leads me to believe that they may be unsound, and possibly lead to injustice towards an innocent person.

Some little time ago, as a result of an accident, I had a certain amount of concussion. Whereas, before that time I could easily stand on one leg, I have never been able to do so since. Also, I have, to some extent, lost my power of balance when standing on two feet, inasmuch with slight tilting backwards or forwards I should inevitably topple over in either direction.

I think my sobriety is unimpeachable, but at the present time I believe I should fail to pass the police tests, and what I am concerned about, and my reason for writing to you is this. There must be many people who, in the course of their lives, have had blows on the head, which, while not impairing their power of work, have left them permanently with impaired balance, unknown to themselves, who might find themselves in an unpleasant predicament if their effective defence against an accusation of drunkenness depended on their satisfying a balance test. Perhaps, through your widely-read paper, this may be brought to the notice of the police authorities.

Yours faithfully,

REGISTERED NURSE.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MARCH.

What methods may be employed for securing free action of the skin? In what conditions might they be advisable? State how you would carry them out.

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