

—many nurses fully realise that it is the salaried nurses who get the cases (whether the doctors ask for them or for those they know on the Co-operation) and this for a very good reason, from the employers' point of view—the former bring more grist to the mill and have to be housed and fed. Furthermore, if a nurse does find that she is going to be "starved out" when she reaches the stage of co-operation, she is in a worse plight than when she entered upon her contract—older, without any added professional experience of great value and in the position of a trespasser in the very field wherein she would naturally seek her opportunities for practice, because, in all probability, she is brought up against the "temporary" or "permanent" agreement she lightheartedly signed at the start—she finds that she may not join another Co-operation except under liability to pay a very heavy penalty which she is, financially, quite unable to meet.

Another type of co-operation is that known as "The Snowball." Here nurses are invited to pay an entrance fee, amounting to anything from half-a-crown to a guinea. Each is given a case, perhaps two, sometimes it may be half-a-dozen; but, meantime, others are coming along with their entrance fees, for there is no limit to how far we can roll on that "Snowball," and consequently no limit to the number of entrants to the "co-operation." And the "Snowball" does roll on, but without a charitable or benevolent motive this time: the earlier entrants are discarded gradually as others come along.

Such are just a few dangers assailing the private nurses, dangers not merely to individual nurses but to all; serious hindrances they must be to the healthy evolution and development of our profession. There are many other aspects, especially that of undercutting professional women, which the limits of space forbid us to elaborate. If the tendency to make commerce of their professional qualifications is not to endure, we advise private nurses to give some really serious thought to the matter and to seek a means of protecting their profession and themselves. A League of Private Nurses or some such organisation, if strong, active and vigilant, could do much to guard the sick against the unqualified and ignorant, to safeguard the professional position of the nurses and to enforce healthy conditions as to economics. We fully realise the difficulties in forming such a League for probably only nurses with their own practices, and the free nurses in self-governing organisations will join it; but, none the less, such an organisation would prove useful to a very large extent in educating both public and nursing opinion. Single individuals can do little or nothing, and it is a thankless business always to punctuate the need for reform; but a united group of nurses, energetic and with the courage of conviction, could do much. Pious opinions and their reiteration do not influence public opinion very deeply; in all reforms it is a case of:—

"Tender handed touch a nettle,
And it stings you for your pains.
Grip it like a man of mettle
And it soft as silk remains."

We shall be glad to have suggestions, in connection with the proposal above mentioned, and to hear from those past and present private nurses who would be willing to give their support to it; by the response received we shall arrive at a conclusion as to whether any further steps shall be taken. Letters should be addressed to Miss Isabel Macdonald, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

FIXTURES.

Under Official Announcements, in the Advertisement Supplement, members will find a list of the fixtures for the next few weeks. We shall be glad if they will cut this out and keep it before them, or put the various items into their engagement books.

As intimated in our last issue, Miss Cutler will be "At Home" at 194, Queen's Gate, on October 13th, from 4 to 6 p.m. She looks forward to meeting many friends on that day, and asks us to emphasise the fact that her invitation includes not only those personally known to her but all members of the Association who are able to be present.

On Thursday, October 20th, at 3 p.m., Miss Mabel Lindsay will give a lecture on her recent visit to the Holy Land with lantern slides, of which she has a very beautiful collection.

We shall be glad to hear as long beforehand as possible from those who intend to be present at the dance on the 29th instant and also from those who wish to go over *The Times* Printing Houses on 1st November—a "Ramble" which promises to be exceedingly interesting.

OBITUARY.

It is with regret that we have to report the death of Miss Caroline Goode, who joined the Association in 1890.

Miss Goode was trained at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. For many years she had a very successful Nursing Home, but gave up this in order to go to the South African War. Since then she has been occupied chiefly with visiting work and massage, but the condition of her health handicapped her considerably of late years. Miss Goode's kindly personality won for her a large circle of friends, and she always took a very warm interest in the Association.

The Memorial Service was held in the Chapel at the West Norwood Crematorium, and among the wreaths sent was one of pink roses and mauve asters from the Misses Cattell, and Miss Liddiatt, old friends, who were also present at the Memorial Service.

DONATIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer acknowledges the following donations with thanks:—

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ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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