

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The following Message from the King to the House of Assembly, Cape Town, was read by the Prime Minister (General Hertzog):

"I wish to express my heartfelt satisfaction at the solution of the Flag question and I earnestly trust that the spirit of tolerance, conciliation, and goodwill may continue to animate all parties and unite them for the common weal."

The message aroused loud applause and expressions of satisfaction.

The whole nation sorrows with the Queen in her sudden bereavement by the death of her brother, the Marquess of Cambridge. To her Majesty, and to the Marchioness of Cambridge we offer on behalf of this JOURNAL sincere and respectful sympathy.

A duty which the Queen imposes upon herself, and invariably fulfils, is the checking and sorting of the garments collected by members of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild for distribution among the sick and poor of London. When Her Majesty arrives at The Imperial Institute, where these garments are collected she at once dons an apron and proceeds to verify the lists attached to each parcel.

Her own gifts and those of the King and members of the Royal Family are dealt with by a Lady in Waiting.

This country and indeed the Empire at large owes much to the late Lord Iveagh not only for an extension of the grounds of lovely Kenwood as a public park but for the superb pictures which will form the nucleus of an Art Gallery.

There has surely never been an exhibit of more poignant interest than that now on view at the London Museum, which includes the gloves, skull cap and jabot presented on the scaffold by King Charles I to the second Earl of Lindsay. A visit to the Museum with the object of seeing them should on no account be missed.

The Meetings and Conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain held last month at Bournemouth were very well attended, and the week proved both inspiring and enjoyable to those who participated.

COMING EVENTS.

November 12th.—R.B.N.A. Concert, in aid of the Helena Benevolent Fund. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 8 p.m.

November 14th-19th, inclusive.—Exhibition of Hand Weaving by Miss Violetta Thurstan and Miss Sibyl Biddulph. Challenge Gallery, 24, Great Russell Street, W.C., 10-5. Saturday, 10-1.

November 15th.—Dedicatory Ceremony, Isla Stewart Memorial. The British College of Nurses, 39 Portland Place, London, W.1. 3.30 p.m.

November 17th and 24th.—Lectures on Nursing History by Miss Isabel Macdonald. The British College of Nurses. 39, Portland Place. 5 p.m.

November 18th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place. 2.30 p.m.

November 22nd.—Annual Meeting Grand Council, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. 3 p.m.

November 26th.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting. 39, Portland Place, W.1. 3 p.m.

December 1st and 8th.—Lectures on Nursing History by Miss Isabel Macdonald. The British College of Nurses. 39, Portland Place. 5 p.m.

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.

THE G.N.C. ELECTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I hope you can spare a few lines in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I want to express the wish and hope that we, the private nurses, shall be represented on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales by a thoroughly trained and certificated nurse, one who is proud of her vocation, and one who has courage enough to stand up for the independence of her fellow nurses. It is, to my mind, the most important work and we are a very large number, and in these days of State Registration, "won after a long fight," it is most essential that we should be properly represented. We are, as a body, so exploited by others, that there is very little freedom, if any.

I remain, Madam,

Yours sincerely,

ALICE CATTELL, S.R.N., M.R.B.N.A.

1, Treborough House,
Great Woodstock Street, W.1.

IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PATIENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I be permitted to comment on Miss Robertson's letter in the October issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING?

Miss Robertson states that "menial work and nursing do not go well hand in hand" because "it lessens the respect of the average patient for the probationer," and "is galling to the more sensitive, highly-bred girl."

I find myself in complete agreement with Miss Robertson's conclusions, and at the same time entirely out of sympathy with her reasoning.

I use the term "menial work" to include the rougher, unskilled work at present expected from probationers and nurses. I do not suggest that such work is in any sense *degrading*. I agree with you, Madam, that we should "hold every form of labour in respect," and I believe that the only degrading work is work badly done, or done from a bad motive.

I am quite sure that the "average patient" is touched by the proof that a nurse considers no service done for him to be too hard or rough, and I think the probationer who could be "filled with disgust" when asked for this service has missed her vocation.

I think that every nurse (and every woman for that matter) should be able to cook, sweep, dust and clean efficiently, and that her training should therefore include instruction in such work, but once the lesson has been learnt her time should be given to more important duties.

Nursing has become a highly-skilled profession, and every moment of a three years' training should be given to the learning and practising of it.

In these days especially, when there is a shortage of nurses, I feel that many patients suffer through not being able to claim the whole time of their nurses. The big essentials of nursing are carried out, but the little non-essentials, which make all the difference, must sometimes be postponed, because "the ward must be got straight." Who has not heard with self-reproach some such remark as this: "I've been just longing for a drink of lemonade, Nurse, but I didn't like to ask you to make it because I could see you were busy."

We *shouldn't* be too busy for all these little attentions if

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