

NOTICE.

Owing to the extreme pressure on our space in this issue, the Supplement of the Royal British Nurses' Association is omitted.

CONFERENCE OF PRIVATE NURSES.

A Round Table Conference will be held on Wednesday, June 12th at 3 p.m., at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., convened by the R.B.N.A. to discuss the proposal to form a League of Private Nurses, and any Registered Nurses, who are, or have been, engaged in Private Nursing, are invited to attend and to participate in the discussion; they will be welcome. There are many throughout England and Scotland who will not find it possible to attend but who may be interested in forming a League such as that suggested. The Secretary will be glad if they will write their views to her and offer any suggestions likely to be helpful to the Meeting.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

The present definition of education sounded the note of liberty, and this at first sight might appear a victory for the Christian principle, but the most important part of education was that which they must give themselves—self reverence, self knowledge, self control. Their ancestors might have been too hard with themselves and their children, but our temptation was to be too soft.—

DEAN INGE.

COMING EVENTS.

June 12th.—Alexandra Day.

June 14th.—Meeting General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 20 Portland Place. 2.30 p.m.

June 14th.—Fever Nurses' Association Annual General Meeting, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester. 2 p.m.

June 15th.—The Matron-in-Chief and Principal Matrons of the London Territorial General Hospitals "At Home" at the Nurses' Home, University College Hospital, Huntley Street, London, W.C.1. (21st Anniversary of the Territorial Army Nursing Service.) 4-6.30 p.m.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

June 13th.—Dinner, Café Monico, 7.30 p.m. Hostess, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. To meet the four Official Delegates of the National Council of Great Britain elected to attend the International Council of Nurses' Meeting and the Nurses' Congress, Montreal, July, 1929.

June 21st.—Departure of Official Delegates to the Montreal Congress from Waterloo Station *en route* for Southampton. 9.45 a.m.

June 28th.—Departure of Members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain for the Montreal Congress, from Waterloo Station, *en route* for Southampton. Mr. Harper, of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Sons, Ltd., will travel by this boat.

The British College of Nurses,

39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

June 13th.—Miss M. G. Allbutt, F.B.C.N., and Miss K. M. Latham, M.B.C.N., Councillors. "At Home." 4-6.30 p.m.

June 29th.—Council Meeting. 2 p.m.

July 11th.—Annual Meeting of Fellows and Members 3 p.m.; followed by a Reception, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Headquarters on view.

Royal British Nurses' Association,

194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

June 12th.—Round Table Conference to discuss the proposal to form a League of Private Nurses. Any Registered Nurses who are, or have been engaged in Private Nursing will be welcome. 3 p.m.

LETTER 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.

ANTE-NATAL WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—I entirely endorse the principle laid down by Miss Anderson, the devoted Matron of the East End Maternity Hospital, that "Ante-Natal work is the surest foundation of successful midwifery," and wish it could be displayed in every training school for midwives, and impressed upon the pupil midwives.

Thirty years ago ante-natal work for the most part was conspicuous by its absence, and a good deal of progress has been made in this direction. Patients used to be booked, a few questions asked and recorded as to previous confinements, and the very inadequate fees (though as much as many of the patients could afford) collected, if possible, before hand, and there the matter rested, until the patient was admitted to the hospital, or the midwife was urgently summoned to a district case, probably well advanced in labour by the time she arrived if it was normal, or possibly to find that the child had already arrived. If it was *not* normal then complications were found to be present which might have been averted had the patient kept in touch with the hospital during the ante-natal period—complications, may be most critical in character, endangering the life of the mother or child or both.

Furthermore the extreme importance of maintaining the strength of the mother while carrying her child was little recognised, she was not taught what were the most suitable foods, or how to manage her own health. Frequently she drudged on, overworked and underfed until labour commenced, and then entered a hospital for her "annual holiday," or, if she stayed at home, managed the household, and the children, from her bed.

Post-Natal work in the interests of the mother and child, and especially of the child is also supremely important, until the child comes under the supervision of the School Medical Authorities.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE AND SUPERINTENDENT OF MIDWIFERY TRAINING SCHOOL.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT

Is the official Organ of The International Council of Nurses in Great Britain; the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain; The British College of Nurses; The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland; The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, and the Registered Nurses' Association. The Official Supplement of the Royal British Nurses' Association is incorporated in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

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NOTE.—As there is likely to be a large demand for the June issue, which is the International Congress number, early application should be made for extra copies.

PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JULY.

In nursing a case of nephritis, what are the symptoms for which you would look, what are the chief complications and what should be done in each instance?

We regret we are unable to award a Prize this month.

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