

This is revealed in the Civil Estimates dealing with the foreign and imperial class.

A Select Committee has been enquiring into the salaries of Cabinet Ministers, already the most highly paid in the world. Every one apparently is to have an increase, the Prime Minister from £5,000 to £8,000, and all the £2,000 men are to have from £3,000 to £5,000. All parties are equally grasping when they dip into the public pocket. So far our women M.P.s have done nothing to try to stem this lavish expenditure of our money, indeed "parity" of salaries for the sexes appears their only interest where national finance is concerned.

Nurses are now taxpayers in one way or another; it is their duty to advocate strict economy in these hard times. Do not let us forget that the highly taxed patient often goes without a nurse when he needs one.

Speaking at a co-operative festival at Bristol, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Minister of Health, said the Government hoped to introduce a measure shortly which would be perhaps the most far-reaching of all modern legislation for sweeping away over-crowded slums.

Good news indeed.

We are to have more women police. Let us: but we are in entire sympathy with the views of Mr. W. Leach, one of the M.P.s for Bradford, who in the interests of "law and act" has declared war on the present uniform, which he considers makes the policewomen look clumsy instead of smart, and does not give them the trim, neat appearance of a policeman.

We are always perturbed by their huge and hideous boots. Why should policewomen wear these beetle crushers? Such a contrast to the trim, feminine feet to which the eye is now accustomed.

In connection with the Wedgwood Bicentenary in May, the Queen is lending some of her treasures for the pottery exhibition which forms part of the celebrations.

The opening on May 19th is to be performed by Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood.

#### APRIL.

"A gust of bird song, a patter of dew,  
A cloud and a rainbow's warning,  
Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue—  
An April day in the morning."

#### A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"At last, I have come to the final conclusion . . . that the greatest force in the world is work—and once one has made that one's own, and felt all its torments and blessings, then one will hold to it tooth and nail (even if one is a woman) as one of the most precious discoveries of life, and prize it as highly as the responsibility which one has for one's own future and that of one's dependents."

ELEONORA DUSE.

#### COMING EVENTS.

April 20th.—Easter Day.

April 25th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

April 26th.—British College of Nurses. Council meeting. 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.15 p.m.

April 28th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Meeting of Executive Committee. Board Room of Registered Nurses' Association, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 4.30 p.m.

May 8th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Annual Meetings throughout the day. University Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C.

## 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 HEALTH AUTOMOBILE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with extreme interest the article in the JOURNAL last month on the Health Automobile which is being used by the Board of Education in Los Angeles.

It seems to me that these "ambulatory clinics" are just what are needed in the rural, and sparsely populated districts in this country. A nurse paying regular visits on certain days, could, working of course in co-operation with the local practitioners, give useful nursing treatment over quite a wide area.

More and more, I am sure that both district nurses and midwives should cover a wider area than has hitherto been the rule. With the advent of motors, and the installation of telephones in almost every village, transport is speedy, and calls can be quickly made, so that there is no need for district nurses to be so parochial as heretofore.

Yours faithfully,

DISTRICT NURSE.

### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

#### The Nurse and the Public.

A Fellow of the British College of Nurses writes: "I should like to send you a line to say how much I have recently enjoyed our interesting B.J.N. I think Miss McCormick's article on the 'Nurse and the Public' simply splendid. It is indeed time to speak—silence, surely, in these days, is a handicap. Admittedly as the writer goes on to say, the public's attitude towards us is that of respect and esteem; but has it grasped the important fact that we are very much a National Asset? There's plenty to speak about if we are only permitted to launch forth, for it is amazingly ignorant of our Profession."

#### The Joy of Giving.

A Member B.C.N. writes: "Sometimes I get quite disheartened with my fellow nurses—so few apparently realise that they owe anything to the fine profession which has been built up for them by past generations of colleagues. Those who have been certificated in the past ten years gave nothing either in work or money for State Registration—that is, legal status—and grumble if invited to join any nurses' organisation to do their share in maintaining high standards. Registered Nurses—earning £4 4s. a week at long cases—have had the audacity to tell me they cannot afford to join the B.C.N. or pay one guinea subscription a year, which includes our splendid B.J.N. To these uninspired women I reply, 'What you really mean is you cannot trouble to use your brains and conscience, for if you did you would realise you cannot afford to take everything and contribute nothing.' I am now on the shelf, but rejoice that I lived through the strenuous years of the Registration Campaign, and had the joy of giving what I could not afford without personal deprivation."

#### PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

In a case of unconsciousness following suspected poisoning how would you act until the arrival of a doctor, and what would you get ready for his use? Mention some of the common narcotic poisons and their antidotes.

We regret we are unable to award a prize this month, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

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