

The Site in the centre of the Victoria Gardens in which the Statue stands is perfect, facing Millbank, the grand old Thames flowing behind.

In the sunlight, in star-shine, in shadow and gloom, the glorious spirit of Emmeline Pankhurst will shed beneficence around.

A veritable Mecca for the faithful.

E. G. F.
M. B.

A SUFFRAGETTE DINNER.

In the evening of Unveiling Day a Suffragette Dinner was held at Mack's Restaurant in honour of Mrs. E. K. Marshall, by whose untiring devotion as Hon. Secretary of the Pankhurst Memorial Fund all costs in connection with the erection of her Statue have been paid, and, marvel of marvels, leaving a substantial surplus!

Mr. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., was in the Chair, and a gay company of upwards of 200 Suffragettes and their friends attended. Greetings were read from Miss Christabel Pankhurst from U.S.A., from Mrs. Pethick Lawrence "6,000 miles away," and from other pioneers.

Suffice it to say the speeches were brilliant, wit sparkling freely.

The offering of a magnificent basket of fruit instead of flowers to Mrs. Marshall symbolised achievement instead of bud—a true W.S.P.U. touch.

Mrs. Marshall's expression of thanks was characteristic of this charming, versatile woman (who once got "three weeks" for shying a *boiled* potato at autocracy), and was received with acclamation.

"General" Flora Drummond, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chair, addressed her audience as "fellow gaol-birds"—so many of those present were wearing their prison badges, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence's health was drunk most heartily in water!

A very memorable and happy occasion, at which we were pleased to note the Nursing Profession was represented. If only Lavinia Dock could have been with us—but nothing is perfect in this world!

E. G. F.

COMING EVENTS.

March 12th.—Ramble to Canterbury for members of the Royal British Nurses' Association and Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses conjointly.

March 19th.—University College Hospital, Gower Street, W.C. Opening by Prince George of the new Preliminary Training School for Nurses. 3.30 p.m.

March 28th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

April 8th.—Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association. "At Home" to Members of the British College of Nurses, and to Members of the Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. 4 to 6 p.m.

The British College of Nurses.

March 17th and 24th.—Classes by the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., on "The Conduct of Business at Meetings." 5.30 p.m.

March 18th and 25th.—First two of a series of fifteen weekly Lectures on "Advanced Psychology," by Dr. T. Ronald Forsythe, Ch.B., D.P.M.Eng. 8 p.m.

March 22nd.—Council Meeting. 2.15 p.m.

NOTICE.

To Members of the Staff of the Registered Nurses' Association and others.

Members of the Staff of the Registered Nurses' Association, and others, are asked to note that the telephone number which they have used for so many years has now been changed to Langham 2421.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

HOSPITAL DIET.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—An ex-patient in a large provincial hospital recently wrote in the *Manchester Guardian* as under:—

"The diet seemed of no importance. The food was monotonous, scanty, of poor quality, badly cooked and served on cracked and badly-washed crockery. In this hospital, greens and root vegetables, though cheap, were unknown."

So much pessimism prevails as to the possibility of an amelioration of the dietetic conditions in many hospitals that such criticism comes as a refreshing breeze after a dead calm. It, moreover, accords in large measure with numerous statements at the Annual Conference and Exhibition. In one respect, my disposition would be to differ from the correspondent. The quality and quantity of the food are usually good; it is rather the cooking and service that are more often at fault.

Yet reform on a small scale is comparatively easy and so well worth while. Reform on a large scale will not come until the rulers of our hospitals recognise alike the economy and the humanity of entrusting the catering to specially trained and adequately remunerated "dietetians." These have rendered valuable service in Canada and in America, where the movement originated. It is, however, unwise to attempt to legislate in advance of public opinion. With a view to informing this, a paper on "The Reform of Institutional Housekeeping" was read before the first Hospital and Institutions Conference, 1927, the Warden of King's College for Women presiding. Interesting details of the working of the system across the Atlantic were given by some of the leading women engaged in its administration. A verbatim report in pamphlet form is available, post free 7d. This Society, which was recently consulted by the authorities of a large hospital, will be happy to be of service.

Yours, etc.,

CHAS. E. HECHT,

Hon. Secretary,

Hospital Matrons' and Schools Joint Committee.
Food Education Society,
29, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A *Fever Hospital Matron* writes: "We have learned with relief that the three Registered Fever Nurses who 'celebrated' at lunch time, and then proceeded to raid West End shops, have been removed from the Register. The whole episode was too demoralising for words—hospital management becomes increasingly difficult, and how will it be possible for matrons to recruit a reputable nursing staff if the crime of theft continues to be condoned by the General Nursing Council. No thief should ever have been retained on the Register.

"It is rumoured that one medical woman, in discussing this case, described it as a 'spree.' We nurses consider such conduct a professional disgrace. We have to thank the Council of the British College of Nurses and the R.B.N.A. for conjoint protest, and could have wished the College of Nursing had also expressed disapproval. I consider silence at such a crisis of so large a body of nurses is greatly to be deplored."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR APRIL.

What are the principal biting and stinging insects? What diseases do they convey and with what preventive or remedial treatment are you acquainted?

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