

NURSERIES FOR ALL PURSES.

Of all the exhibits at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia, just closed, none aroused more interest than the "Nurseries for all Purses," organised by "Cow and Gate" in conjunction with the *Daily Mail* and arranged by a nursery expert.

Nurseries for the babies of rich and poor, with grades of income varying between a bare £100 a year and that which permits of the luxury nursery, and just, by way of contrast, a Victorian nursery to remind us how much more convenient and hygienic is the nursery of to-day were demonstrated.

Best of all we liked the nursery for the baby of parents with £100 a year income, for luxury can be bought, and while it is natural that people of means should provide costly equipment for their children's nurseries, the father-to-be who perforce lives sparsely and cannot afford to spend money on fancy furniture, had used brain and hands and made a charming baby's corner in the humble room. Every piece of furniture in this room has been made by Mr. Brown, a chauffeur-mechanic, and the result was delightful.

And, by the way, may we remind our readers of the photographic competition illustrated on the front cover of this JOURNAL. Get for your child a Cow and Gate crown and enter for the competition, and then, who knows, he may win £200 for you, and you can spend it on his nursery if you will.

COMING EVENTS.

May 9th.—British College of Nurses. Class on Administration. Visit to University College Hospital, W.C.

May 10th.—Liverpool Cathedral. Nurses' Annual Service. Preacher, Archdeacon Howson. 5.15 p.m.

May 12th.—Commemoration of Birthday of Florence Nightingale, O.M.

May 16th.—British College of Nurses. Council Meeting. 39 Portland Place, London, W. 2.15 p.m.

May 17th.—The Nightingale Fellowship. Commemorative Service of Florence Nightingale in the Chapel of St. Thomas's Hospital. Preacher, the Archbishop of Canterbury. 10.30 a.m.

May 18th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Exhibition of Cow and Gate Film. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 3 p.m.

May 22nd.—British College of Nurses. Class on Administration. Visit to Hospital for Sick Children. Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.

May 27th-29th.—National Council for Mental Hygiene. Second Biennial Conference on Mental Health. Central Hall (Lecture Hall) Westminster, London, S.W.

May 29th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Council Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

May 30th.—Saint Joan of Arc Quincentenary Celebration at Rouen.

June 2nd.—British College of Nurses. Miss E. Hope Bell, F.B.C.N., Matron, Lester Chinese Hospital, Shanghai. Lecture on "The Development of Training of Chinese Men Nurses." 39, Portland Place, London, W. 5.30 p.m.

June 3rd.—Mrs. Strong, President of the Scottish Nurses' Association, "At Home" to Members of the British College of Nurses and the Scottish Nurses' Association. Scottish Nurses' Club, 203, Bath Street, Glasgow.

June 15th-20th.—National Council of Women of Great Britain. Annual Meeting and Conference at Aberdeen.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

Why is the hygiene of the mouth important? How should it be applied (1) in the case of an infant; (2) in the case of a child or an adult patient? What conditions requiring special care may occur in sickness?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

OUR PUBLIC MORTUARIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your Editorial for April entitled "Coroners' Nurses," raises a question which it is surprising has been, I believe, untouched up to this time.

Death is the one most certain thing, and the manner and time of our passing the most uncertain.

It has been said with reference to the dangers of congested traffic that pedestrians in these days are divided into two classes, "the quick and the dead." This aspect of sudden death, added to those resulting from increased pressure of mental and physical strain, must of necessity raise more urgently the question of dealing with the humane and sympathetic disposal of the poor body, with which the feelings of friends and relations are so closely interwoven.

We, who should be imitators of God, must be no respecters of persons, and the body of the distraught woman who has sought oblivion in the waters of the river, should be as reverently dealt with as those of her more refined sisters.

Nevertheless, "do as you would be done by" is an excellent maxim, and it is well to pause and consider, "if it were myself," "if it were the body of one I loved," and to resolve to support heartily any forward movement which would place not only trained nurses but *sympathetic* women in charge of the bodies of both men and women who are brought to our public mortuaries.

This would quickly result also in the improvement of the mortuary itself, and tend to mitigate some of the horror and bitterness that must so often overwhelm those who are left.

The "art of being kind" should be part of the equipment of every trained nurse, and should specially be required for those appointed to this duty

Yours faithfully,

HOSPITAL SISTER.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.
Coroners' Nurses.

Private Nurse writes: "Thank you for Editorial on 'Coroners' Nurses.' Reform in staffing public mortuaries is urgently needed. It is only a few months ago, on the death of a patient, that her husband and daughter received grievous shocks, from which the former has not since recovered. Devoted to his wife, he naturally considered the lack of a female attendant at the public mortuary to which she was removed a most inhuman condition of affairs. I enclose his address as I feel sure he will desire to help you in this matter."

[We thank our correspondent and hope our readers will do all in their power to make our demand public. The Council of the British College of Nurses have by resolution communicated with all the most important Coroners in England and have brought the matter to the notice of the Home Secretary and the Chairman and Chief Medical Officer of the London County Council.—ED.]

We Must Not Cease Our Endeavours Until the Public Conscience is Aroused.

A Fellow of the British College of Nurses writes:—"A point which strikes me very much about the arrangements in public mortuaries to which you have so graphically drawn attention in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is that so many people take for granted what 'always has been done'! Supposing the public Press published that the body of a well-known person had been dealt with in the way you describe what an outcry there would be, but because this is the usual routine week in week out no notice is taken and the public are 'content to have it so' without protest."

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