

COMING EVENTS.

May 12th.—Birthday of Florence Nightingale. Wreaths of Homage to be laid at the base of her statue in Lower Regent Street, S.W.1.

May 21st.—British College of Nurses, Monthly Meeting of Council. 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.15 p.m.

May 24th.—The National Birthday Trust Fund (for Extension of Maternity Services), Mrs. Stanley Baldwin At Home. In the Gardens at Downing Street. 3.30 p.m.

May 27th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London, W.1.

May 28th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Special Meeting of the Grand Council. 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m. To consider the organisation of "Nightingale Week" and International Council of Nurses Business and Congress, July, 1933.

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.

INSPECTION OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HOUSES SHOULD BE MADE COMPULSORY.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
39, Portland Place, W.1.

DEAR MADAM,—In an article in your April issue, commenting on the death of a young girl, you say she had been suffering for five years from pulmonary tuberculosis. At the inquest, the mother stated that the first sign of ill-health, or any suspicion of it, arose on the girl's return from her summer holiday last year when she said she had contracted a chill.

Conclusions drawn from a newspaper account of proceedings are frequently very different to those formed by one who has attended the inquiry and heard the evidence, and should not be accepted without careful inquiry. Your article, also, I consider, is written under a misapprehension.

Christian Scientists are particularly careful to use and apply the term "Christian Science Houses" to those institutions for which Section 7 of the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, makes special provision, and which were rendered necessary by the extraordinarily wide terms of the Act. These Christian Science Houses are under the supervision and control of a committee of the Church of Christ, Scientist, specially appointed for this purpose, and it is through this committee alone that application for their exemption in terms of the Section is made to the Minister of Health. While it is true that the method of dealing with illness and disease by Christian Scientists is essentially different from that of the medical profession, yet since they both have the same object and purpose, namely, the alleviation of human suffering, it is unfortunate that the article in your paper should have been written from such a critical standpoint.

Yours truly,
CHARLES W. J. TENNANT,
Committee on Publication.

Donington House,
Norfolk Street,
Strand, W.C.2.

[We see no evidence in the above communication that our reference to the case alluded to in "Echoes" in our last issue is too critical of the system of treating disease by prayer alone—and denying alleviation of medical and nursing science to the patient. We are still firmly convinced that it is injurious to the public interest to have omitted Christian Science Houses, alluded to in the marginal reference of the Registration of Nursing Homes Act as "Christian Science Nursing Homes," from inspection, as provided in the Act for all other Nursing

Homes—conducted by Registered Nurses—where the sick are attended by Registered Medical Practitioners.

If they are not to be inspected, these "Houses" should not have been granted the status and responsible liberty to admit the sick, granted to them in the Act.

This is not the first inquest of death in a Christian Science House which has called for criticism in this journal—and until such time as the public are further protected in this connection—doubtless it will not be the last—the sooner the Act for the Registration of Nursing Homes is amended to give free access for the inspection of Christian Science Houses the better.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Mrs. E. A. Robinson writes: "I want to tell you how much I enjoyed my visit yesterday to the beautiful home of the College of Nurses, and to thank you again for your kindness in showing me through the house with its many treasures.

"A house so dignified and beautiful and so rarely furnished must be almost unique, and as a lay person I felt very privileged in being allowed to go through it. It seemed to me to be so perfectly in harmony with the lofty ideals the College embodies, and its atmosphere of restful beauty must be a boon to those members of the profession who are able to refresh themselves in it from time to time. It was a great pleasure to me to see it all."

"Our Little Brothers."

Lover of Animals, writes: "I cut the enclosed advertisement from *The Times*. 'Would you like to go to prison? No! Then don't cage a wild bird. An Appeal from the R.S.P.C.A., 105, Jermyn Street, London, S.W.1. Please pass it on.'"

(We do so gladly. Last week we listened to the exquisite thrill of song from wild birds on the wing—was ever such joyous music? Then there are the dear horses. When is the horrible ungrateful cruelty to these worn-out servants of man to cease? The horrors of their deportment overseas when crippled with suffering is unworthy of any nation posing as civilised. We do wish more members of our humane profession would take a practical interest in helping to prevent cruelty to animals.—ED.)

NOTICES.

AS THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is a monthly paper the Editor will be greatly obliged if items of news which the readers desire included are sent to her as early as possible, as they often arrive just after the Journal has gone to press.

We shall be pleased to insert information and notices and reports of meetings from the Associations affiliated with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, under the heading of Nurses' Organisations.

"THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT

Is the Official Organ of 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. Apply, Manager, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

We regret that no Prize Competition Papers were sent in for this month.

PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JUNE.

Describe Empyema and Nursing Treatment.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)