

## COMING EVENTS.

## JUNE.

June 18th.—British College of Nurses. Monthly Meeting. 39, Portland Place, London. 2.15 p.m.

June 23rd.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Annual Meeting. 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 3 p.m.

June 24th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London. 2.30 p.m.

## JULY.

July 2nd.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting. Lecture Room, Nurses' Home, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 3 p.m.

July 4th to 9th.—"Nightingale Week," London. Conference with International Colleagues on the "Florence Nightingale International Foundation." 39, Portland Place, London. 11 a.m. Programme of week's events will be issued later. Apply Miss S. Villiers, Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, 39, Portland Place, London, W.2.

July 13th.—British College of Nurses Annual Meeting. 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 3 p.m.

Reception and Tea after the Meeting. Fellows and Members cordially invited to be present.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## The Eagle Eye.

From a Municipal Sister.—"We all read with great interest your remarks on 'The Finest Career of All,' the L.C.C. pamphlet, so widely discussed in the daily press, and so difficult to obtain. The Sisters in this hospital wish to strongly support your closing remarks about the authority of the Matron, and we think it is a pity that medical women meddle so much with nursing affairs, and are so intolerant of the Head of the Nursing Department being entrusted with rightful power to perform her duties in L.C.C. hospitals.

"The attitude of Dr. Esther Rickards in her avowed antagonism to 'the discipline of the Matron' proves that she knows little of hospital management, and she would be wise not to butt into our affairs. No good can come of it. Moreover if she is a constitutional reformer why not turn her attention to her own profession?"

"Somewhere I read a contemptuous allusion to 'the eagle eye of the Matron,' as if keen observation of her department was inimical to its interests. We need a few 'eagle eyes' in these institutions, if the 'Hackney' scandals are not to be repeated and no member of the nursing staff worth her salt resents a keen supervisor. Here we are blessed with a 'woman of parts' as our Matron and we appreciate her devotion to duty.

"The centralisation system of nursing organisation from Headquarters of the L.C.C. is taking all the heart and soul and power of initiative out of nursing in Municipal Hospitals. In the old days when Matron selected and recommended her own staff to the Board of Guardians, temperaments and characteristics were taken into consideration when appointments were made, often after personal observation—so that we got the right woman in the right place. Now it would appear any square peg must be fitted in a round hole, and subordinates whose views of life and standards of duty are antagonistic are compelled to live and work together. How is it possible to get the best work done under this system?"

"In our best voluntary hospitals no such bureaucracy has ever been approved or attempted, and a system which has produced the finest medical and nurse training schools in the world should be emulated by the L.C.C.

"I have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that nursing standards in this hospital are rapidly deteriorating."

## Privacy of a Single Bedroom.

A Staff Nurse writes:—"One sentence in your report of 'The Finest Career of All' I wish to endorse 'the privacy of a single bedroom is of the very first consideration in the well-being of Probationers.' It is indeed the one indispensable blessing if a young nurse is to go into the Ward daily refreshed and fit for duty. Anyscrap of a room will do—just to feel oneself free to potter around, dress and undress free from a foreign eye, make what noises one pleases without annoying a fellow lodger, remove a mask if necessary and read one's letters in peace, walk about with 'noddings on' if so inclined, and generally relax. No creature needs and deserves this freedom and privacy more, if she is to keep sane and efficient, than a hospital nurse. It should be a rule that single bedrooms are provided for the nursing staff before committees undertake to nurse the sick."

[We do indeed sympathise with this demand and are glad to know that in Nursing Homes in these days, convenient single bed-rooms are provided. What a contrast to our personal experience in times past. Even as a Paying Probationer we slept in a passage-room through which people were constantly passing—fellow nurses, maids, cleaners—to say nothing of porters popping in their heads and being much abashed to find their mistake! And then we slept in a disused little ward with a companion and with screens round the beds. The routine in the morning was as follows, bath or cook breakfast on alternate days, which consisted of porridge stirred with a wooden spoon, eggs or bacon and toast and tea, which we thoroughly enjoyed nice and hot. Then there was a large square ventilating hole high up in the wall through which unsolicited *billet doux* and flowers would come fluttering on to the bed! All very unorthodox no doubt, but we turned up on duty to the minute as spick and span as possible, well fortified for a twelve hours' spell of hard labour six days out of seven which we thoroughly enjoyed and asked for more.—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. Price 7s. annually including postage. Apply, Manager, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

We regret that Papers sent in for the June Competition were not awarded a prize.

## PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JULY.

Describe how you would prepare a patient for operation under a general anaesthetic. How would you care for the patient in the operating theatre and for the first hour after operation?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)