

## COMING EVENTS.

July 4th to 9th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Headquarters, 39, Portland Place, London W.1. Nightingale Week.

July 4th, 5th, and 6th.—National Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, King George's Hall (Y.M.C.A.), Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

July 6th.—The Matron and Members of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League At Home at the Nurses' Cottage, Duncoon Road, Honor Oak Park, Tennis. 3-6.30 p.m.

July 9th.—Association of Hospital Matrons. The Thirteenth Annual Meeting, St. Thomas's Hospital, London, 3 p.m.

## International Memorial to Florence Nightingale.

Representatives of the National Councils of Nurses, affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, who are in England for the purpose of attending the celebration of the Florence Nightingale Week, have been invited to be present at the Annual Meeting. It is hoped that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., will address the Meeting.

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.

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service. Semi Finals and Final of the Tennis Tournament. Royal Air Force Depot, Uxbridge, 2.30 p.m.

July 22nd.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

## A FATHER'S LAMENT.

EPITAPH ON MARGARET LOVE PEACOCK  
BY HER FATHER, THE POET PEACOCK.

Long night succeeds thy little day;  
Oh blighted blossom! can it be,  
That this grey stone and grassy clay,  
Have closed our anxious care of thee?

The half-form'd speech of artless thought,  
That spoke a mind beyond thy years;  
The song, the dance, by nature taught;  
The sunny smiles, the transient tears;

The symmetry of face and form,  
The eye with light and life replete;  
The little heart so fondly warm,  
The voice so musically sweet;

These, lost to hope, in memory yet  
Around the hearts that lov'd thee cling,  
Shadowing, with long and vain regret,  
The too fair promise of thy spring.

## WHAT TO READ.

- "The Romance of Canterbury Cathedral." By a Friend.
- "Men and Memories." Vols. 1 and 2. Sir William Rothenstein.
- "Scotland Discovered." J. J. Bell.
- "Winters of Content." Osbert Sitwell.
- "The Dissolution of an Empire." Meriel Buchanan.
- "Royal Flush."
- "Forget-Me-Not." Joseph Shearing.
- "Little Red Horses." G. B. Stern.
- "Down the Garden Path." Beverley Nichols.
- "Faraway." J. P. Priestley.

## 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.*

## DISEASE AND DELINQUENCY.

To the Editor of *The British Journal of Nursing*.

MADAM.—The Magistrates' Association (of which the late Lord Haldane was first president, and now presided over by the Lord Chancellor with Sir William Clarke Hall as its chairman), a fellowship of all magistrates, and composed of men and women Justices throughout the country, has for some time been deeply concerned about the apparent increase of juvenile delinquents.

It has realised that many young law-breakers have been sent to prison and thence transferred to institutions or asylums for medical treatment, while others who had been committed to prison repeated the same offences immediately upon their release. It is now becoming widely recognised that many of the propensities to falsehood, depravity, cruelty, and crime are the result of disease and due to disorders of the nervous system and, instead of penalising affliction, medical aid is being invoked before disease develops further, and thus justice may also be saved from disrepute. The Magistrates' Association has appointed a committee to inquire and report as to what care and protection can be given to the diseased young offender before passing judgment, so that the full facts may be placed before the justices. The proposed extension of the relief work of the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases will be widely appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES,

Chairman of the Committee for Inquiry into  
Care of Mental and Nervous Delinquents.

[We are devoutly thankful to learn from Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones that instead of penalising affliction in Courts of Law, medical aid is being invoked. The Council of the British College of Nurses gave much publicity to this needed reform through this JOURNAL in 1929.—Ed.]

## SENTIMENT OR SENTIMENTALITY?

To the Editor of *The British Journal of Nursing*.

DEAR MADAM.—Mr. Fenner Brockway, writing in a recent issue of *The Star*, draws attention to the position, in relation to the hours of work and the economics of the Nursing Profession. I think he is rather inclined to mix up sentiment and sentimentality in his outlook on the case. We regard the skilled and devoted care which the nurses give to their patients, the encouragement during the trying hours when the goddess Sleep neglects the patient, and the nurses' efforts to make the disagreeable business of dressing as easy as possible, as arising from *sentiment*; sentiment is a thing of which we would like to see even greater evidence in the attitude of our nurses towards the sick. *Sentimentality* either on the part of the nurse or the public is quite another thing and bound to obscure truth. In Mr. Brockway's article the two are confused. He enumerates certain aspects which have their origin quite truly, as he says, in sentimentality; but are such aspects as general as he believes? He mentions many of the hardships which exist for nurses and particularly nurses who are in training; but he entirely overlooks the fact that these last are in the privileged position of being paid during their years of studentship and in no other profession is this so. When he advocates that probationers

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