

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The Queen sent the following message to the National Baby Week Council, of which she is patron, on the occasion of the seventeenth National Baby Week, July 1st to 7th:—

"It gives me great pleasure to record once more my deep interest in the important work which is carried out by the National Baby Week Council from year to year. I would again express my good wishes for a successful continuance of the labours of the Council and my keen appreciation of their efforts on behalf of the mothers and babies throughout the country."

Preparation for parenthood is one of the subjects to which the National Baby Week Council is drawing special attention this year, and it is not without significance that a number of men and women teachers have given very serious consideration to the part that school life may play in this admittedly complicated process of preparation for parenthood.

Men teachers have submitted to the National Baby Week Council a synopsis showing the modification of the school curriculum so as to prepare boys for their future responsibilities as fathers; while women teachers have sent in outlines of practical work at school designed to lead up to the teaching of mothercraft.

To Mr. W. M. Thompson, of Dollis Hill, Willesden, N.W.10, goes the credit of having submitted the best scheme for preparing boys for their future responsibilities as fathers; and Miss W. M. Littlewood, of Shelley, near Huddersfield, has won the first prize for an outline of work which is designed to lead up to the teaching of mothercraft.

Wonderful and wise are the ways disclosed by mothers and fathers of using an allotment or a garden for the benefit of the family. In connection with National Baby Week they have been writing some very excellent essays on this subject.

An allotment or garden, they make clear, serves a very valuable purpose in the household budget. By a careful choice of vegetables, particularly, much may be done to provide the family with nutritious, vitamin-bearing foods—so essential to health—at an almost negligible cost. Then there are flowers for the house and the table, space for baby to sleep in the open air, for exercise and occupation for the toddlers, good training for the young folk to help mother and father in the garden; and there is the great joy of watching the seeds one has planted and the land one has cultivated bring forth their produce.

One of the prize-winning essays says: "My husband has been unemployed over two years, and it is not only the financial worry, but almost I think worse still, the depression and brooding sense of failure. From this abyss of misery his allotment has saved my man; he has an interest in life, something to think about . . . yes; when I think back to the times when my husband used to sit and brood over his ill-luck, I say 'Thank God' for the allotment, for his renewed interest and hope for the future; even were there no advantage to myself and kiddies, it has lifted him out of the 'Slough of Despond.'"

Miss Janet Beith, a young Scotswoman, has achieved the distinction of winning, with her first book, "No Second Spring," the biggest prize which has ever been offered for a novel.

The award, offered jointly by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, Ltd., of London, and the Frederick A. Stokes Company, of New York, was 20,000 dollars (£4,000 at par). The competition was open to entrants of all nationalities.

Every school girl and boy would be the better for reading a very charming little book, "Great English-women," by Mrs. I. B. O'Malley, with illustrations by A. B. Ogle, published by G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., London. The names of the great women are very varied in character and in their occupation, but one and all have the same great force of character and a firm set purpose. You read of Queen Victoria, Elizabeth Fry, Millicent Garrett Fawcett, the three Brontës, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Mary Scharlieb, Frances Mary Buss, Florence Nightingale, Octavia Hill, Mary Slessor, and Dorothea Beale; 1780 to 1930 was a most productive age in the marching forward of women and their work. At the end of the book there are "Self Study Exercises."

"Which of all the women you have been reading about do you like best?"

"Which would you most wish to be like?"

Very pertinent questions, and very good for young minds. This attractive little book can be had for 1s. 4d., and what knowledge it contains!

AIR PAGEANTS FOR BRITISH HOSPITALS.

Led by Mr. Charles W. A. Scott, the famous airman, who holds the world's record for his flight from England to Australia, a series of about 200 consecutive Air Pageants, organised by British Hospitals' Air Pageants, is being held this summer in various parts of Great Britain, with the object of raising funds for local hospitals.

The aircraft includes the actual machine in which Mr. Scott set up his record flights to and from Australia, and many famous pilots are actively associated with the programme.

As a result of the tour, it is hoped that the hospitals will benefit to the extent of at least £20,000.

The campaign, which has the support of Prince Arthur of Connaught, opened and will finish in London.

WHAT TO READ.

"Mutiny." Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall.

"Miss Delicia Allen." A Love Story of Old Virginia. Mary Johnston.

"Vicars' Walk." Horace Annesley Vachell.

"Lessons from the Varsity of Life." Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

"Girton College, 1869-1932." Barbara Stephen.

"Hostages to Fortune." Elizabeth Cambridge.

VERSE.

Man is his own star, and the soul that can
Render an honest and a perfect man
Commands all light, all influence, all fate;
Nothing to him falls early or too late.
Our acts our angels are, for good or ill,
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.

John Fletcher.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"The secret of my love for Oxford is not found in the spirit of its teaching, still less in its degrees and least of all in its examinations, but most in the spirit which is embodied in its quadrangles, its robes, and its spires."

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.

COMING EVENTS.

July 22nd.—British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.15 p.m.

July 27th.—British College of Nurses. Annual Meeting of Fellows and Members, 39, Portland Place, W.1. 3 p.m. Reception by the Council and Tea, 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

July 28th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

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