

COMING EVENTS.

January 20th, 1933, 8.45 p.m.—Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children, Shadwell, London, E.1. Colonel W. P. MacArthur, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., Hon. Physician to H.M. the King, and Consulting Physician to the Army, will give a lantern lecture on "Plague in England in Old Times." The Chair will be taken by Miss J. M. Browne, M.B., B.Ch., M.O.H. for Stepney. Visitors cordially invited.

January 21st.—British College of Nurses. Meeting of Council, 2.15 p.m.

January 27th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. Election of Chairman, 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

January 28th.—Winter Re-union Nurses' League, Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley, Recreation Hall, Nurses' Home, Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley. 3 p.m.

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.

THE ELECTION: GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I through your paper thank everyone very sincerely who voted for me in the recent General Nursing Council Election for the honour they conferred on me by doing so. I feel it a great responsibility, and will do my best to prove worthy of their trust.

Yours sincerely,

E. S. INNES.

[The Registered Nurses will, we feel sure, realise that in Miss E. S. Innes it has a faithful representative, who will prove worthy of trust. We all realise that the newly elected General Nursing Council for England and Wales has a "test" time coming, and that the constituency will keep a watchful eye on its professional privileges, which have in the past been so hardly won.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Economy.

A Poor Nurse writes: "How true those few lines about 'Economy' from 'A Member who always has to Economise.' I know several nurses who have resigned from various nurses' organisations on the score of economy. I always protest at their shortsighted and selfish policy. Surely we do not join and support our organisations for self-interest alone, but to help our fellow members and our profession. One colleague has earned upwards of £1,500 in private nursing fees in the last seven years (with one four-guinea case) and has never subscribed a penny to finance professional organisation. The only thing to her credit is that she subscribes to—but apparently does not read—the *British Journal of Nursing*.

I do wish to support the suggestion that registered nurses should put aside the small sum of 1s. 9d. monthly and enjoy being 'one of us.'"

Nip the Rip.

District Nurse writes:—"I note that at the Winter School for Health Visitors and School Nurses, held at Bedford College, Dr. Octavia Lewin, lecturing on nasal hygiene, is reported to have said that whether they thought of the

minute-gun of the sniffer, or the resonant sound of the snorer by night, the performer was not popular. Observation had proved that sniffers were not long lived. Sneezing was a wonderfully cleansing force. They could not be too careful to make the very most of a sneeze—to let it rip, as it were.

From experience in 'buses, this advice is quite superfluous, as the passengers not only make the most of a sneeze, but have apparently discarded the use of a handkerchief, thus infecting all and sundry. Our only defence against such lack of consideration is to immediately take out a handkerchief and use it ostentatiously as a hint for consideration for others, and as personal protection from rippers."

Nursing in France.

An experienced Nurse writes from Paris:—"Work is very slack over here, as in most countries, and many nurses are having a very hard time, but I must say that in a good many cases the nurses are themselves to blame, because they will not "take anything," if you can understand what I mean. Also they are foolish in asking too much in the way of fees. In my poor opinion when times are very bad and people really unable to pay the usual high fees, one should compromise for a while and take less. Am I right? Over here at the American Hospital the special nurses (private staff) are paid £1 a day. At the present rate of exchange, 125 francs a day is decidedly more than £1 a day. I myself a year ago undertook this present case at less than the Hospital fees, everyone else refusing it, because it was a "chronic case." From a Londoner's point of view, it is unworthy of the "spirit of nursing." I am now Housekeeper, Nurse, Secretary, etc., etc., and have learnt a good many useful things, as French housekeeping is quite different from English. I only quote this as an incident of the rather material spirit of Continental nursing which is so different from our own.

When I have had to work for French Doctors, they are generally rather hostile at first, but after about two days, they say they only want English Nurses; very complimentary to our Training Schools, isn't it? I must tell you a funny incident. I was sent to nurse a case of a fractured spine, right down in the middle of France, some time ago. An American lady, who had survived a terrible motor accident in which her two companions had been killed. (She got quite better after many weeks, as her spine was not fractured.) Well, I was sent to replace a French nurse in this clinique. The nurses were simply amazed because I was always so "clean" and always had a fresh apron on every day! And starched at that. Starch is very expensive over here, and one does not use it unless one can afford it.

I wonder if the following items would be of any use to others:

(1) For a helpless patient, a whole "chamois leather" (a very soft one) is perfectly ideal to place next the skin, and aids considerably in the prevention of bed sores. One needs two, naturally, to change each four hours when doing the back.

(2) The juice of lemon thoroughly cleans and sweetens a sponge making it like new."

NOTICE.

We regret that no Prize Competition Papers of sufficient merit were sent in this month.

PRIZE COMPETITION FOR FEBRUARY.

Describe what you know of Influenza, and how to nurse it?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)