

COMING EVENTS.

March.

March 17th.—At the Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E.1, Mr. R. H. Hill, M.A., Secretary to Bodley's Library, Oxford, will give a talk, illustrated by exhibits, on "Sir William Osler as a lover of bairns, books, and Bodley." The Chair will be taken by Mr. J. G. Wilson, Managing Director of Messrs. J. & E. Bumpus. Nurses and others interested are cordially invited to attend. 8.45 p.m.

March 18th.—British College of Nurses. Meeting of Council, 39, Portland Place, W.1. 2.15 p.m.

March 24th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

May.

May 4th.—British College of Nurses. "History" Dinner, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1. Ball Room. 8 p.m. Chair, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President. Tickets, 12s. 6d., from the Secretary, British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

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.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I read with great appreciation the letter from "State Registered Nurse" in the February Journal, and quite approve of her suggestion of a plan to make known to the electors something of the candidates they are expected to vote for. We up here were faced with the difficulty stated in that letter, in that we knew no more than the man-in-the-moon what sort of persons the candidates were, and how could we think of proposing members of whom we know nothing. Nowadays, I for one know nothing of the elections, but then I have come off the register since I ceased active work.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA HORTON,

Hazelwood House,
Dumbreck, Glasgow.

THE STATUS OF SISTER TUTORS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I should like to bring before the Nursing World through the medium of your valuable paper, the injustice which is being meted out to Sister Tutors at the present time by the large bodies responsible for the Nursing education of Nurses.

"A tired mind cannot learn and long hours of toil are incompatible with the making of good citizens," so spake Robert Owen many years ago.

Are Nurses any less human to-day?

It is extraordinary that in 1933 nurses are required to attend lectures as late as 8 p.m., it is unbelievable that Nurse Teachers are expected to have the ability to be enthusiastic and impart knowledge with patience after 10 or 11 hours of strenuous teaching and correcting.

The average Sister Tutor works 10 or more hours per day and has only her summer holiday to break the mental strain, she seldom has even a Bank Holiday free. Beautiful museums, etc., are at her disposal, but she has no time to visit them, except with her classes when the nurses' needs must be attended to.

Teachers in hospital must teach many subjects and be well up-to-date in Modern Surgery and Medicine, to do this

midnight oil must be burnt, and unless she has a very efficient knowledge of her subjects at the beginning of her career, the average Tutor will have no opportunity of acquiring it later.

The Status of the Sister Tutor is indefinite, and yet the Diplomas she needs to possess are the highest the Nursing Profession can acquire, and the work which they have entailed is known only to those who are fortunate in holding them.

A Sister Tutor's knowledge is and must be superior to most of those in senior positions in the hospitals, why should her position be almost ignored?

We feel it is time to bring this matter forward, or Sister Tutors are soon likely to cease to exist.

Progress has been made and results of our Pioneer Teachers will live for ever, let the Profession see to it that its Teachers are given what is due to them.

SISTER TUTOR.

THE SOPHISTICATION OF FOOD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Being very interested not only in the service of food for the sick but also in the quality of the food so served, I scan my daily paper with a view to learning all I can about our food supply. It is much that nurses should of recent years have been taught to present the diets of their patients well cooked and daintily served, but we need to go deeper than that and to be ever on the alert as to the quality of the raw material, for of what use is it to coax a patient with a poor appetite to swallow the meal which we set before him, if when he has done so the food is not nutritious?

I notice that at a joint meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute and of the Food Group of the Society of Chemical Industry, Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys, Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, gave a needed warning when he drew attention to the "sophistication" of food and pointed out when discussing "factory cleanliness in the food industry," that an extra responsibility was thrown on the manufacturer by such sophistication. The food, he said, was so excellent in appearance and tasted so good that a consumer would never suspect the possibility that it might be contaminated.

An even greater danger appears to me to be that brought out at the enquiry at the Ministry of Agriculture into the application of the National Farmers' Union and the National Poultry Council for an order under the Merchandise Marks Act for the compulsory marking with an indication of origin of imported meat and poultry, as reported in the *Times*.

A member of a firm of ham and bacon manufacturers was in favour of the mark because he contended that for many years carcasses of pork had been imported from New Zealand, Brazil and other countries and had been cured in this country and sold as "Wiltshire." In his view this should be made illegal.

The Chairman (Mr. St. John Micklethwait, K.C.) remarked: "I suppose it becomes bacon after curing in this country, and, therefore, the curers say that it is English bacon."

Sophistication of food, indeed, *in excelsis*. But the above incidents go to prove how necessary it is not only for nurses, on whom falls so much responsibility for the adequate feeding of the sick, but also for the public in general, to be keenly on the alert as to the origin and purity of the food supply.

I am, Dear Madam,

Your obedient servant,
HOME SISTER.

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