

COMING EVENTS.

April 20th.—Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E.1. Lantern Lecture on "The Recovery of the Classics from the Rubbish Mounds of Egypt," by Dr. John Johnson, M.A., Printer to the University of Oxford. Visitors cordially welcomed. 8.45 p.m.

April 21st.—The British College of Nurses. Meeting of Council, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.15 p.m.

April 27th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 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 ROMANCE OF RUBBER GLOVES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the review of Henry C. Falk's "Operating Room Procedure for Nurses and Internes" in the current issue of your JOURNAL, the following quotation has attracted my notice: "The use of rubber gloves is a relatively recent refinement of surgery. Dr. W. S. Halsted, of Baltimore, in 1889, was the first one to advocate their use." I wonder how many of your readers know that Halsted's original idea was merely to protect the hands of his favourite theatre-nurse, with whose delicate skin the strong mercuric chloride solutions then in fashion did not agree. His assistants later began to wear gloves in the operating-theatre, and Halsted himself was the last to adopt their routine use, having realized that gloves make little difference to the sense of touch and that they eliminate the surgeon and his assistants as formidable sources of sepsis. It is not only in jurisprudence that *cherchez la femme* is the golden rule.

Halsted afterwards married this nurse, who possessed high spirits, a striking personality, and good looks, and who was a good nurse. It is amusing to remember that he often expressed surprise that she could have married anyone so unworthy of her as himself.

Yours faithfully,

W. R. BETT, M.R.C.S. Eng.

THE "DRINK MORE MILK" CAMPAIGN.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see that in the current issue of our JOURNAL "School Nurse" emphasises the importance of "Clean Milk" in connection with the "Drink More Milk" campaign, for only if a clean milk supply can be guaranteed is the consumption of milk advantageous or indeed safe.

I hope that the Nursing Profession will realise this and do all in its power to urge in season and out of season (if there can be an out of season on so important a subject), the supreme necessity for improving the purity of our milk supply, and, upon the public, the duty of obtaining guarantees of the safety of the milk supplied to them by their purveyors.

Too long we have been, shall I say, indifferent to the quality of our milk in regard to purity. It is high time that we aroused ourselves, for if we are to drink more milk let us drink nourishment and not dangerous fluid.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A World-Wide Movement.

A Member of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain writes:—"It is splendid that the work of the

Provisional Committee of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation has resulted in arousing such widespread interest in the proposal for an International Educational Memorial to the great Founder of modern nursing. I was present at that never-to-be-forgotten banquet in Cologne in 1912 when the proposition made by you, and supported by Miss Adelaide Nutting was received with so much enthusiasm. Now at long last it really seems that it will materialise, and in a form which Miss Nightingale herself would have approved. It proves once again the all compelling and conquering power of tenacity of purpose."

Thanks to the B.B.C.

State Registered Nurse writes:—"I sometimes wonder if the nation is nearly grateful enough for the services rendered to it by the B.B.C. Especially to invalids. Those who cannot leave their own homes can now listen in the comfort of their own homes to distinguished preachers, statesmen, musicians, singers, can hear lectures on all the interesting topics of the day. Those who are unable to read can each day be kept in touch with events of world-wide and national importance and interest by listening in to the news, most interestingly announced at stated times. And the descriptions of such events as the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race as so vividly described as almost to enable the blind to see. As an aid in whiling away the hours of convalescence it is a boon indeed, as private nurses know well. Indeed life is so much more vivid and interesting nowadays that we wonder what we ever did without our B.B.C., for we nurses share with our patients the refreshment and education it brings."

What to See in London.

Dominion Nurse with few friends in London writes:—"It seems a shame to ask for more through the *B.J.N.* than you already give us, but I am somewhat of a stranger here working in a London Hospital, from a far-away Dominion, and I really find a difficulty in filling in all my off-duty time. If only the *B.J.N.* would advise us what to see worth while, I feel it would be a very educational programme."

[Personally, merely to take a walk in London Parks and streets, to say nothing of the magnificent free exhibitions and churches, would fill many more hours than we can spare. Just now we long to pay a visit to Westminster Abbey, and see the Abbey Effigies which have recently been renovated at the Victoria and Albert Museum—Charles II and Queen Elizabeth. Go and see them, and when you come out of the Abbey, spend half an hour with the birds and crocuses in St. James's Park, and there you can pay homage to Cook and Clive and that wondrously beautiful bronze statue of "Jacobus Secundus" by Grinling Gibbons, and salute the Flag on Buckingham Palace, all free but the Effigies.—Ed.]

Registered Nurses' Rights.

Scottish Nurse writes:—"Have Registered Nurses any rights in Scotland under their Nurses' Registration Act? If I had not happened to read THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING I should have known nothing whatever of the action of the Scottish Council to alter our educational curriculum, of which I do not approve."

[We are of opinion that no such drastic change in Nursing education should have been effected without much more publicity and consultation with the Nurses' electorate.—Ed.]

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

What precautions should a Nurse take to avoid infecting herself and others when nursing: (a) Enteric Fever, (b) Gonorrhœa, (c) Erysipelas, (d) Ringworm.

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