

cocaine, or syphilis, and thus perhaps help to prevent many social and legal transgressions."

We desire to call the attention of nurses to this fascinating and illuminating book, and to ask them to remember their share of responsibility in bringing relief to sufferers from nasal sinusitis and other forms of focal sepsis. For the author stresses the importance of early treatment, and here lies the opportunity of the nurse with trained powers of observation and the will to exercise them; for her opportunities of so doing are many. In the course of private nursing, in district work, in the discharge of her duties as school nurse and elsewhere she may meet with cases to which medical attention has not been directed, which should, in her opinion, be brought under medical supervision; thus, in an important direction, she may assist in the prevention, the relief, and the cure of disease in which early treatment is of the first importance.

We commend this book to the librarians in Nurses' Homes. We hope it will find a place in all Nurses' libraries.

M. B.

### OUTSIDE THE GATES.

A net surplus of over £11,000,000 is shown in commercial accounts of the Post Office for the year ended last March. This is an increase of some £400,000 over the previous year, and is a record in the history of the British Post Office. Surely with this huge profit, we shall revert to the penny post, as it means a quite unjustifiable tax on those compelled to use stamps.

A Bill will be introduced in Parliament by the Government early this session, for the improvement of rural water supplies. The Minister of Health considers of all things that can be done to help country people to a better and healthier life there is nothing in which you can get so big a return of health, happiness, and profit at a reasonable cost as in an improvement of the supply of water to village and to cottage. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has agreed to put at his disposal for the purpose the sum of £1,000,000, to be used towards the capital cost of water schemes in rural areas to be prepared and initiated in the next few years.

The age-long friendship between England and Belgium was emphasised by the Belgian Ambassador, Baron de Cartier de Marchienne, when he was recently admitted to the Company of the Knights of the Round Table.

The Belgian Ambassador said that it was a proud boast that since the days of Julius Cæsar there had never been war between England and Belgium.

"The compliments which have been paid to me I pass to my country where we have a King who, I am proud to say, is the living image of King Arthur."

### RED CROSS DAY.

The British Red Cross Society announces that the record sum of £12,993 was collected by the society on Red Cross Day this year, against £8,825 last year. Red Cross Day is now celebrated annually throughout the Empire on May 12th, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday.

### BABY WEEK SHIELD.

The Imperial Baby Week challenge shield awarded for 1933 by the National Baby Week Council to the State of Mysore, India, has been presented on behalf of the council by Lady Willingdon, wife of the Viceroy.

### COMING EVENTS.

*February 10th.*—The Matrons' Council of Great Britain. Annual Meeting. Chairman, Miss Cochrane, R.R.C. President. Royal British Nurses Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. 3 p.m.

*February 16th.*—The Marie Curie Hospital, 2, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3. Opening of the new X-Ray Department by H.R.H. The Duchess of York.

*February 16th.*—Lantern Lecture on "Our Animal Friends as Patients," by Professor Sir Frederick Hobday, C.M.G., F.R.S.E., Principal of the Royal Veterinary College. Chairman: Brig.-General Sir Hill Child, Bart, C.B., D.S.O., Deputy Master of H.M.'s Household. Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E.1. 8.45 p.m. Visitors welcomed.

*February 17th.*—British College of Nurses. Meeting of Council. 39, Portland Place, W.1. 2.15 p.m.

*February 23rd.*—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. 20, Portland Place, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

*March 3rd.*—Mental Hospital Matrons' Association. Quarterly Meeting. Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. 2.30 p.m., preceded by Meeting of Executive Committee at 2 p.m.

*March 20th.*—British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Special Meeting to explain reasons against splitting the Preliminary Examination for Probationers by the General Nursing Council. Nurses cordially welcome to attend by intimating the Secretary. 5 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.*

#### APOLOGIES TO BESS.

Before inserting the following letter from Mr. Farmer may the Editor be permitted to offer humble apologies to "Bess" for describing her in our last issue as "a beauteous fellow," instead of as "a lovely lady," which she is? No doubt our explanation will make this Voluntary Helper of the Westminster Hospital more irresistible than ever. We hope so.

#### FUND FOR THE ERECTION OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to the very kind and generous article which appears in the January issue of your Journal regarding Westminster Hospital, together with an illustration of our "doggie" Collector, "Bess," may I thank you for so charmingly calling attention to this member of our Voluntary Helpers?

There seems to have been a slight misapprehension regarding the gender. As "Bess" is of the gentler sex, we hope her appeal to members of the nursing profession and their friends may be even more irresistible.

You ask where respects and coins may be paid to her. Unfortunately "Bess," like some human beings, has had several operations, and is at the present time convalescing. This double appeal of sex plus suffering is therefore a very strong one for a worthy cause.

As an alternative to your query, may I suggest, therefore, that until "Bess" has regained her health and strength, and is once more ready to attend on visiting days at the Hospital, and at various large stores in Westminster, to tempt stray pennies from admirers, if any contributions were sent to the Appeal Secretary, marked "Bess," they would be credited to her collecting account. At the present moment, after a few months' collecting, this account totals over £120, mainly in coppers.

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