

**CLUB FIXTURES.**

On Thursday, March 15th, at 3 p.m., Miss Macdonald will give her lantern lecture on the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland which, owing to illness, she was unable to deliver in accordance with a fixture made earlier in the year. A large number of very beautiful and historic slides will be put on the screen. We have made no fixtures for the following week, as all who can will wish to attend the meeting at the British College of Nurses on Tuesday, March 20th. After Easter we are arranging a Bridge Drive for Friday, April 6th, at 8 p.m., and we shall be glad to have notice from those who will join this. Miss Liddiatt is, we learn, arranging another charabanc ramble "so that we may see the primroses again," and suggests Canterbury as our main objective. We shall be glad to send full particulars regarding dates, hours of departure, etc., to anyone applying for them as soon as the "Chief Rambler" has completed her arrangements.

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS.**

The Executive Committee will shortly prepare the list of nominations, to fill vacancies on the General Council, in accordance with the provisions of Bye-law XVII. Will Members, who wish to send up nominations, for the election, kindly forward those to the office not later than March 16th? Only Members of the Association are eligible for election to the Council.

**SETTLEMENT HOME.**

One of the smaller rooms at the Settlement Home is now vacant and any Member who wishes to make application for this should write to the Secretary, 194, Queen's Gate. The cost of the room is 2s. weekly, which includes medical attendance, rent, electric light, use of the bathroom, washing room and larder. Each room has a floor covering of linoleum and in each is provided a hanging cupboard and one with shelves. Nurses can have a coal or gas fire as desired, and there is a large private garden attached to the house.

Members occasionally ask whether it is possible to see this house, to the upkeep of which many contribute generously. We take this opportunity to state that if any Member, who wishes to go over the Home, will write to Miss Ellen Nash, Sister-in-Charge, Settlement Home, 20, Clapton Square, E.5, and make an appointment, the latter will have great pleasure in making arrangements with the Members in residence that a visitor may go over the Home; Miss Nash is always glad to see our Members and to show them any hospitality possible.

**OBITUARY.**

It is with deep regret that we have received notice of the death of Miss Alice Anne Briggs, who was trained at the Central London Sick Asylum. During the War she served as a member of the Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. at the Hursley Military Hospital. She was ordered to undertake service in Salonica, but unfortunately was invalided off the ship upon which she was to have sailed. Eventually Miss Briggs had to leave the service owing to bad health, but she continued to take an active part in social and church work at Potters Bar, the district in which she lived subsequent to her retirement from nursing. Many tributes appeared in the local press to her activities there.

**MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE THE PRELIMINARY STATE EXAMINATION.**

We would urge as many Members as possible to make a point of attending the meeting which is to be held at the British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, W.1, on Tuesday, 20th inst., at 5.0 p.m. If we have a profession, it is for those who belong to it to organise in its defence, and one of the main duties of any, who hold to this point of view, is to acquire a full knowledge of the arguments why any given measure is likely to prove injurious to the

well being of her profession. It is good natured perhaps, but not helpful, to support the leaders of a certain policy just because you trust them, to oppose the introduction of innovations just because those leaders oppose it; but such support merely indicates a kind of thinking in shadows while to participate in such a meeting as this, which has been called, involves exhaustive discussion on the whole question and a responsible knowledge of the pros and cons of a question which, whether one may choose to close one's eyes to the fact or not, is of truly vital importance to the future. There is no doubt that the present is a time of testing for the nursing profession and neither is there any doubt that, if a true professional spirit can only dominate the situation, we shall protect our boundaries. But the danger which we have to face is the lethargy of members of the profession itself. Even to form opinions is a trouble to some people, far less to make such opinions felt, and individuals of this type are far more dangerous and difficult to combat than active opponents.

It is the duty of an organisation to form a policy in regard to such an important question as that involved in the division of the Preliminary State Examination. And equally it is its duty to offer full opportunity to its members and, on such an important issue, to the nursing profession generally, to come together and discuss the whole situation as it affects the past, the present and, most of all, the future. We of the present are the custodians of the future and here in this matter of the preliminary examination and the teaching of subjects, related to nursing, outside the nursing schools, it lies with us to decree which seed shall grow and which shall not. The subjects under discussion are, as we have said, of the most vital importance; the policy of the speakers embodies the policy of this Association, as formulated in discussions both in the Council and the Executive Committee. There is nothing to be gained by holding separate meetings and we do most strongly urge as many of our Members as possible to attend and take part in the discussion, on the 20th of March, when, it is hoped, that still clearer will become the issues involved in the present cleavage in nursing opinion. We are unceasingly creating the future and it is the duty of every nurse who can, to attend this important conference. Arising on its considerations two pictures must inevitably unroll themselves before us. In one, we see a future wherein are jealously treasured and protected all the great teaching privileges that, respectively, are the singular right of each profession. The other picture is one of confusion in which professions other than our own are, like vultures, claiming a share for themselves in the privileges that should have been guarded if the nurses of our present time had been awake to the full significance of the issues involved. It is to be remembered that nearly always the seeds for future evolutions are laid just about 30 years before the chief historical effects take place. To-morrow, next year or at any time you may decide to join in handing over the teaching of a large and important part of nursing education to others, because it is indicated to be the easy course for the present time; 30 years hence those who follow you will inherit the wreckage arising from such lethargy in a submerged profession and lost ideals of education and progress. Just because we feel that so much is at stake we most strongly urge the Members to support the policy of the Association by attending in large numbers the meeting at 39, Portland Place on March 20th at 5.0 p.m. Quo vadis?—at least we hope that Members of this Association will show whether their faces are turned to the hills, or to the swamps of dependence and inertia in the battle of rights and privileges with which the profession is once more faced.

194, Queen's Gate,  
London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
*Secretary to the Corporation.*

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