

"NIGHTINGALE" IN THE AIR.

We quote the following hopeful paragraph from *The Bulletin*, published by the American Nurses' Association:—

"Through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company and the instrumentality of the American Red Cross, Miss Nightingale's appointment to service in the Crimea, and the humanitarian tasks which she performed while there, were dramatised over the radio on Sunday, May 12th, the anniversary of her birthday. The programme, in which Susan Francis, President of the American Nurses' Association, and Mrs. August Belmont, for the American Red Cross, participated, launched the appeal for funds for the Nightingale Foundation, which is sponsored by the A.N.A. and the A.R.C. and which was announced in the *May Journal*. Some nurses were so eager to give that they did not wait for the formal announcement. The very first cheque came from an Oklahoma nurse, the second from a Massachusetts Aluminae Association, and the third from '100 per cent. of the Students' of a school in Mississippi! Officers of each state association now have all necessary information in hand and at least two—New Jersey and Florida—are setting their machinery in motion to assist with this splendid memorial."

WHAT TO READ.

Biography and Memoirs.

- "Queen Mary," Sir George Arthur.
- "Thomas More," R. W. Chambers.
- "The Story of Louisa Alcott," Cornelia Meigs.

Fiction.

- "God's in His Heaven," J. L. Hodson.
- "Early One Morning," Walter de la Mare.
- "They Lived," A Bronte Novel, E. Thornton Cook.
- "Green Light," Lloyd Douglas.
- "The Uncertain Glory," Bruce Marshall.

COMING EVENTS.

- June 22nd.—British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.
- June 25th.—Nightingale Training School, St. Thomas's Hospital 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the Training School by Miss Nightingale. In support of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation. 4 to 6.30 p.m.
- June 28th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Council Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.
- June 29th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting, Lecture Room, Nurses' Home, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C. 3 p.m. Social Gathering in the Great Hall.
- June 29th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Annual Meeting, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. 3 p.m.
- July 2nd.—Florence Nightingale International Foundation. Grand Council Meeting, St. Thomas's Hospital, London, S.E. 11 a.m.
- July 4th.—Florence Nightingale International Students. Presentation of Certificates, Bedford College, London, N.W., by Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire. 3.30 p.m.
- July 6th.—British College of Nurses. Annual General Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 3 p.m. Reception and tea, 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.
- July 10th to 12th.—International Council of Nurses. Meeting Board of Directors, 14, Quai Gustave Ador, Geneva.
- July 13th.—League of London Hospital Nurses. Annual Meeting, London Hospital, Whitechapel, London, E.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"My delight is in the neatness of everything, and so cannot be pleased with anything unless it is very neat."—*Samuel Pepys*.

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.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

Claybury Mental Hospital,
Woodford Bridge, Essex.

April 9th, 1935.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I note in your March issue, included in the article entitled "Kernels from Correspondence," under the sub-title of "Professional Recognition," "One who Pays" laments the lack of Press publicity in regard to successful candidates in the Finals Exams of the nursing profession.

The Editor's postscript, which informs us there are now 80,000 nurses on the Register, and they have only to Demand to Have, raises a very interesting point. If the 80,000 nurses would demand the total maintenance of the hospitals by the State, Collecting Boxes, Flag Days, "Save our Hospitals," etc., would be unnecessary and our nurses would be using their energies for something worth while, and incidentally, would mitigate the grievances and inhuman conditions so prevalent in General hospitals.

It is significant to note that well over 50 per cent. of the nurses in General hospitals either collapse or find themselves compelled to leave during their training period due to illnesses caused by the appallingly long hours and overwork which in turn are a direct result of systematic understaffing.

As one who enjoys a 48-hour week in a State-supported institution, which permits of a certain amount of leisure, sport and cultural facilities, etc.; with a Union to regularise hours of duty and conditions of work, etc., I am convinced those 80,000 nurses would derive great material benefit from a reduced working week and would also give opportunity for employment to these thousands of nurses under and over 30 now unemployed.

The end of a life-long career of self-sacrifice leaving the members of the nursing profession compelled to exist on private charity or public relief, makes it imperative for them to take the liveliest interest in their professional standards of to-day and the future. Recognising their profession to be one of the most honourable, it is necessary for them immediately to take steps to ensure the change of conditions from one of the most exploited of the professions to those worthy of emulation rather than compassion. Care should be taken to ensure the title of "profession" given to their enduring work should not be regarded as sufficient consolation for the continuance of wages and conditions which are rightly regarded as intolerable by those working in "trades."

Yours faithfully,

N. DOOLEY,

R.M.P.A.

[We invite correspondence on this letter, as we have received other communications in the same strain. EDITOR.]

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Headquarters Address: 39, Portland Place, W.1.
Members of National Associations of Nurses visiting London always welcomed with pleasure.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JULY.

Describe the dangers to health from overcrowding, and how the Registered Nurse can participate in preventing and alleviating them.

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