

COMING EVENTS.

February 11th.—At Home, by invitation of Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., President F.N.I.F., to meet Miss Kathleen Russell, B.A., Director of the Nursing School of the University of Toronto. Florence Nightingale International House, 15, Manchester Square, London, W.

February 12th.—British College of Nurses. Informal Talk, by Sir Algernon Tudor Craig, on "The Romance of Heraldry." Fellows and Members cordially invited. 39, Portland Place, London, W. 5.15 p.m.

February 22nd.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting. 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

February 28th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London, W. 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 ENDOCRINE SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in the article which appeared in the January JOURNAL in relation to the questions discussed at the meeting of the British Association at Norwich. It is most helpful to be informed briefly of the points raised at such meetings, for unfortunately one has not the time to study lengthy reports of them, even if one could procure them.

What interested me greatly was the note on Professor Herring's address on the pituitary gland. How much has been learnt of the ductless glands during the last quarter of a century. When I was training, for instance, we were taught that little was known about the spleen, but its functions did not appear to be important. Now we know the exact contrary. In regard to the pituitary gland we learnt its name and its position, but of its functions nothing at all. Now we are told by Professor Herring that "it exercises a controlling function in the endocrine system and may justly be called the 'master gland' of the interlocking directorate of ductless glands." Truly we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and we owe much to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for keeping us abreast with modern knowledge.

The discussion on the place of psychology in the training and work of teachers was also of great interest and importance. How much children have suffered in the past from a lack of some knowledge of psychology on the part of both teachers and parents. I entirely agree with Miss Winnington Ingram that "nothing has made so much difference to the lives of children as the dawning awareness of parents and others of the sacredness of the mind of a child." May this dawning herald the full daybreak.

Yours faithfully,

STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

VICTORIA OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I see by this month's *B.J.N.* that Miss Edith Sitwell is issuing next month a book entitled "Victoria of England." I don't know who is the publisher, but I do know that Miss Sitwell is belittling a great woman by giving her such a paltry title.

The great Victoria was Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India, to say nothing of the

Dominions beyond the seas. Surely that is an elementary fact known to all the school-children in the Empire. The great Elizabeth was the last Queen of England.

I am, etc.,

52, First Avenue,
Glasgow, S.1.

E. H.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

British Babies Sold to Foreigners.

A lover of children writes: "May I draw your attention to a statement recently made by Miss Andrew, the founder and director of the National Children Adoption Association, to a representative of the *Sunday Times* that 'Continental agencies with representatives in this country have an organised business through which English children in increasing numbers are literally sold to foreigners, who by their own laws are unable to adopt children of their own nationality'; that 'at present there is nothing to stop anybody arranging an adoption,' and that 'foreigners will sometimes offer high prices for babies, but once the babies have gone abroad anything may happen to them. There is no means of keeping a check?' It seems most monstrous and incredible that such a state of affairs should exist in this country at the present time. 'Home Office representatives,' it is stated, 'have had conferences with those of foreign countries with a view to stamping out the traffic. So far they have been unable to devise any plan to combat it, but a committee is to be set up by the Home Secretary with this object.' Surely it is not beyond the women of this country to devise a plan to combat it. In my opinion they should not tolerate this appalling traffic for one hour without taking strong united action."

The World has Lost a Very Real Friend.

"*L. M. H.*" writes from Cairo: "The New Year has well started ere I have had an opportunity to write and thank you for the very handsome card sent by the British College at Xmas, and in view of the recent loss of our beloved King it will be particularly treasured as memorising the great event of the last year of his life. On Tuesday next we are having a memorial service at the barracks to coincide with the hour of the funeral procession in London, and accommodation has been arranged for 10,000. In a cosmopolitan place like Cairo, it is marvellous to see flags of every nation at half mast, and whatever the political feeling may be, one thing is certain, all nationalities and all creeds are unanimous in agreeing that not only has England lost her King, but the World has lost a very real friend. Every success to the British College, as members and workers during 1936."

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MARCH.

State the nursing procedure in a case of advanced tubercular disease of the lungs, mentioning particularly all the necessary precautions you would take, and the complications which might arise.

We regret we are unable to award a prize for February, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

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