

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY

- "Maria Theresa." Constance Lily Morris.
 "Those English." Kurt von Stutterheim.
 "Insanity Fair." Douglas Reed.
 "News of England." Beverley Nichols.
 "Madame Curie." Eve Curie.
 "Isaac Newton, 1642-1727." J. W. N. Sullivan.

FICTION.

- "Count Belisarius." Robert Graves.
 "The Dragon's Tail." Anne Duffield.
 "After Midnight." Tynegard Kenn.
 "O Absalom." Howard Spring.
 "The Time of Wild Roses." Doreen Wallace.
 "Those were the Days." Osbert Sitwell.
 "Lucy and Amacles." Esther Meynell.

TRAVEL.

- "Alone Through the Forbidden Land." Gustav Krest.
 "Vienna: The Image of a Culture in Decline." Edward Crabshaw.

COMING EVENTS.

April 22nd.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 23, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

April 23rd.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

MAY.

May 4th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Meeting of the Executive Committee, 2.30 p.m. At the termination of the meeting there will be held a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee to consider a Resolution referred from the Annual Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Tea.

May 14th.—The Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association Annual Meeting, South Eastern Hospital, New Cross, London, S.E.14. 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.

AN INEXCUSABLE ATTACK.

We have received a communication signed M. E. Burdett, G. B. Carter, Irene H. Charley and K. M. Roe, (Members of the College of Nursing), in support of Miss Olive Baggallay's inexcusable attack upon the Founder and President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain (and incidentally the Editor of this Journal) which is of so offensive a nature that we decline to publish it. If the writers desire publicity for their personal views we advise them to publish them in the organ used by the College of Nursing as its own official Journal, as it has never addressed this Journal in that capacity. Miss Baggallay's attack published in our last month's issue, and sufficiently refuted by us, has aroused such bitter indignation in the ranks of the pioneers of the National Council that we have, with their consent, to save unseemly controversy omitted their replies from publication, as we do not consider professional welfare can be advanced by personal attacks, which are calculated to widen the breach between what are known as the "free" nurses' organisations and the College of Nursing, which apparently aims to dominate the whole profession of nursing in this country, and which policy, from daily reports in the press, is apparently arousing hostile resistance under trade union control.—Ed.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

The Matron's Need.

A Married Nurse writes: "I attended the annual inspection of the Windsor V.A.D. a few days ago, when there was also a parade of some 70 members of the A.R.P. Reserve, which has been formed in Windsor in connection with the V.A.D. All received congratulations on their public spirit. What I felt strongly was, here are dozens of fine young women, smart and well disciplined, looking fine in nurse's uniform, but few of them nurses in the professional sense of the word.

"We hear on all sides how difficult it is to recruit regular probationers and what suffering is entailed by the shortage of nurses—why therefore, are not V.A.D.s, who presumably have a taste for nursing, encouraged to train thoroughly and earn the right to wear our cap and apron? It seems a real loss that some of these young women cannot be recruited in this time of the nation's need."

"Do Say a Word."

A Queen's Nurse writes: "Dear Editor, do 'say a word.' I have read with interest the list of the appointment of the members of the Council to govern the Queen's Institute for the next three years. Why peeresses, doctors, secretaries, almoners, and every type of person, and No Nurses? No wonder we are a down-trodden class." [We have touched on this grievance in the Echoes.—Ed.]

Teachers or Matrons to Select Probationers.

A Matron writes: "I have attended more than one of the meetings between Headmistresses and Matrons and marvel how difficult it is for the former to understand our point of view on educational matters from a professional point. If they would only see our girls had sound teaching in the three R's, how happy our Sister Tutors might be."

The Right Sort.

Would-be Student Nurse writes: "I do think there would be a far less shortage of nurses if we had some central body to consult—which would only recommend schools up-to-date in every way. In spite of all the argument in the press, I am determined to enter for training as soon as parents will consent. Seventeen they consider too young, and I hope to go where you advised."

Masked Nurses.

One who has been penalised writes: "I met the masked Nurses in the Strand and had quite a shock, but there is no doubt it was good propagandā, and indeed the 48-hour week has already been adopted by so many hospitals (this included) that other reforms will follow along. Living out is another privilege being asked for, of course only for the senior officers, but it has succeeded where it has been tried. It is the *privacy* we long for after long hours of disciplined service."

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

What is Ophthalmia Neonatorum? State how the infection is conveyed and give an account of the nursing treatment.

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