

women. The Public Control Department informed the Council that there were 40,000 women drivers in London, and 17,000 was a high percentage. Up to the present 2,500 women drivers had been enrolled, out of 4,300 applications. There was an urgent need for many additional members.

The Royal Borough of Kensington has undertaken to raise £10,000 for the portico of the National Theatre now being erected in Cromwell Road.

The hospital event of the month will be the opening of London's New Health Centre, the New Westminster Hospital, by His Majesty the King, accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen, on April 20th.

The King's Fund has promised a grant of £15,000, and the complete cost of rebuilding is assured by the opening day.

Nursing in Russia has not yet attained a very high standard, but great efforts are to be made in Moscow this year to advance hospital treatment and welfare centres.

A hospital will be built in the Taganka district, a polyclinic in Vsekhsvyatskoye, seven new wings for infectious diseases and a casualty department for the Botkin Hospital, new wings for the hospital on Sokolina Hill, a maternity home in Fili, four children's welfare centres and other public health institutions.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"My Life in Russia's Service—Then and Now," H.I.H. The Grand Duke Cyril of Russia.

"A Number of People," Sir Edward Marsh.

"Let Dons Delight," Ronald Knox.

"Goodbye to Berlin," Christopher Isherwood.

"Stage and Bar," George Pleydell Bancroft.

"The Waltz Kings of Old Vienna," Ada B. Teetgen.

FICTION.

"The Patriot," Pearl Buck.

"All This, and Heaven Too," Rachel Field.

"The Brandons," Angela Thirkell.

"Address Unknown," Kressmann Taylor.

"The Hand of Romelius Voyt," Oliver Onions.

"Dynasty of Death," Taylor Caldwell.

NOT TO BE MISSED.

"Disgrace Abounding," Douglas Reed, author of "Insanity Fair."

COMING EVENTS.

April 18th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Meeting, Executive Committee, Kent Room, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 2.30 p.m.

April 22nd.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. 2.30 p.m.

April 28th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 23, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

MAY.

May 12th.—Thanksgiving Day. Florence Nightingale's Birthday. Centenary Service (King's College Hospital), St. Paul's Cathedral, 5.30 p.m. Trained Nurses invited to attend.

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"What then? Shall we have less theory? God forbid. We shall not work better for ignorance.

"Every increase of knowledge is a benefit, by showing us more of the ways of God!"

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, 1851.

TO REGISTERED NURSES.

SAVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

All Registered Nurses who value their legal status and the privileges enjoyed under the Nurses' Registration Act, through which alone the sick can be safely and efficiently nursed, should join *at once* those Nurses' Associations which are standing firmly for professional and economic standards and opposing the degrading of the Nurses' Registration Act by admitting thousands of untrained women to a Roll which it is proposed shall be administered by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales the Governing Body of Registered Nurses.

This betrayal is advocated by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, and is presumably approved by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education who appointed the Committee.

Apply for information and Forms of Membership to the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, or to the Secretary, the British College of Nurses, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

Registered Nurses calling at either of these addresses will be afforded all information on the matter.

THE MATTER IS URGENT.

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 DOMINATION OF THE LAITY.

Oast Court, Barham,
Nr. Canterbury.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.
DEAR MADAM,

Thank you for letting me see your reference on page 65 of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to my letter in the *Times* of last month.

I mentioned the nursing standard of 15 years ago as satisfactory, not that of 45 years ago, as you state. I quite agree that I should have qualified for comparison with Canute had I said that, but I did not.

My suggestion was that two subjects only in the synopsis of the State examinations might be slightly modified without detriment to the standard of first rate bedside nursing.

In the scheme I put forward every student nurse would be eligible for the advanced grade, or a pass with honours, however it were arranged, and the more that entered for that the better, so I cannot see that it is a more invidious or snobbish plan than university passes, or the Staff College in the Army. It seems to me that everyone would find the sphere suited to them, and that entrants into the nursing service would be increased.

Yours truly,
DOROTHY ROBERTSON.

[Our correspondent may take it that to revert to nursing conditions of 15 years ago is impossible—the progress of medical science makes it impossible if nurses are to be of any use as their assistants in the wards and in private practice. Two grades of pupils again makes for invidious distinctions, as those of us who trained as "Lady Probationers" know well. The time has gone past when class distinctions will be tolerated. What the nursing profession is suffering from is the domination of the laity, who apparently consider themselves qualified to control professional women, without themselves obtaining practical experience of their work. Memoranda sent in by lay women's organisations to the Inter-Departmental Committee demonstrate this assumption.—ED.]

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