

COMING EVENTS.

MAY

May 17th.—Duchess of Kent will attend Rose Ball, Grosvenor House, in aid of Alexandra Day funds.

May 21st.—Saint Joan of Arc Celebrations, Rouen. United States Ambassador will preside.

May 21st.—Commemoration Service in St. Thomas's Hospital Chapel. Sermon will be preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The offertory will be for the Florence Nightingale International Memorial Foundation. 10.45 a.m.

JUNE

June 1st.—Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, London S.W.7. 3 p.m.

June 9th.—Illustrated Lecture by Mr. E. F. King, F.R.C.S., on "Detachment of the Retina." Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. 3 p.m.

JULY

July 5th-7th.—The International Council of Nurses. Meeting of the Board of Directors. 51, Palace Street, London, S.W.1.

July 11th and 12th.—The Florence Nightingale International Foundation. Meeting of Grand Council. London.

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.

THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

The Matron-in-Chief of the British Red Cross Society presents her compliments to the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and begs to inform her in response to her enquiry, dated 24th ultimo, that the British Red Cross Society's Reserve of Nurses is under the control of representatives of Civil and Service members of the nursing profession and representatives of the British Red Cross Society.

The Matron-in-Chief is Chairman.

THE PARROT CRY.

DEAR MADAM,—I recently attended a somewhat private meeting to discuss the burning question of the "Assistant Nurse," and frankly it would appear that highly qualified Registered Nurses know absolutely nothing of nursing economics and political economy.

A boss was in the Chair, and repeated the parrot cry that the "Assistant Nurse must be controlled." When we asked "by whom?" the reply was "By the G.N.C. of course." But why of course? I have been a Registered Nurse for twelve years and I was informed by Matron that the qualifying exams. were prepared on a minimum curriculum, and if I could not attain to the "simple standard" of the exams. my intelligence was exceedingly limited, as the standard was the minimum for safety of the patient. As far as I know, the minimum standard is still in force, and presumably the reason for thrusting untrained nurses on an ignorant public is that these women, many of them from elementary schools, are incapable of attaining the standard considered safe where the lives of the public are concerned. Then how dare the Inter-Departmental Committee propose to foist such attendants on sick people, because of course if they are registered or "rolled," the sick will vainly imagine they have been tested and approved by the Ministry of Health or the General Nursing Council (which ought to know better) or the College of Nursing, which is the villain of the piece in this matter.

What amazes me is that the Minister of Health, who is apparently running this scheme with the College of Nursing, is a medical practitioner, and would not stand any such degradation in his own profession—rather not!—Yours,
A GRATEFUL S.R.N.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Up Goes the Price of Shoddy.

From a lay woman interested in public affairs: "I have just heard that the Government is asking girls to train in home nursing, first aid, etc., as, should war break out, they will be asked to take on a full-time job at a very much higher pay than is at present being given to probationers, and is for that reason being kept secret, as if probationers knew they might all down tools, which would be very awkward. Probably you know all about this; but in any case, I think it is worth handing on. It was revealed today by the Organiser of A.R.P. for this district. Why do they always make a Cinderella of the Nursing Profession? No wonder they can't get nurses!"

A Rude Awakening.

"This is an L.C.C. Hospital and no one permitted to wink an eyelash, as our boss has signed the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee. With all this autocracy, Ministry of Health, L.C.C., College of Nursing and Press, where do we differ from Hitler and Mussolini? At least the two Dictators do not pose as democrats, the while denying direct representation, free speech and justice to professional women concerning their own affairs. I predict a rude awakening should our dictators ruin our Register."

What I Have I Hold.

"In this land of appeasement I know war cries are not popular (more's the pity for Austria, Czechoslovakia, Memel, Bohemia and Moravia and Albania), but may I suggest we Registered Nurses adopt as our War Cry, on the suggested depreciation of Nursing Standards, "What I Have I Hold"? Would it be possible for those of us who have the courage to stand firm in opposition to the ruin of our Registration Act to wear an inscribed ribbon? People are inquisitive and an explanation of what the inscription means would be an excellent form of propaganda."

[Both suggestions are good.—ED.]

Unregistered Nurse: "Why all this fuss about Assistant Nurses? I have only had a short spell of training, as feet would not stand it, but I am attached to a 'Co-op.' which includes both Registered Nurses and semi-trained. I am sent to excellent cases and generally give satisfaction. as I make myself useful all round, which S.R.N.s often do not. I dust, carry trays, do a bit of washing and a bit of cooking if needs be, and my doctors ask for me over and over again, and don't seem to mind that I am a bit doubtful about anatomy and physiology. I take care not to chatter, which is a fault of so many S.R.N.s. I don't gossip." [We can quite believe the writer is popular with doctors and household staff: Domestic service is invaluable.—ED.]

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

Describe the treatment of Intestinal Obstruction and the Nursing Care.

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