

## COMING EVENTS.

## July 25th.—ANNUAL MEETING. BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

We are requested to notify that the Annual Meeting of the British College of Nurses will be held on Thursday, July 25th, at 3 p.m., at the Headquarters of the College, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, and it is hoped Fellows and Members will make an effort to attend; those who can do so are requested to notify the Secretary by Post-card of their intention to be present so that arrangements for tea may be facilitated. Guests are not invited to the Reception as in pre-war meetings.

## 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.*

## KIT ALLOWANCES FOR ARMY NURSES.

As a limited number of Army Nurses have complained that the uniforms and kit allowances do not cover expenditure on active service, we enquired from the War Office what they amounted to, and have received the following information, for which thanks:—

"With reference to your letter of May 16th, I am directed to inform you that uniform and kit allowances at the following rates are at present issuable to members of the Nursing Services called up for military duty:—

Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.) AND T.A.N.S.

*Uniform Allowance.*—£20 for the first year of service; £5 for the second year of service; £10 for each subsequent year of service.

*Tropical Uniform Allowance.*—At stations abroad in countries with a tropical or semi-tropical climate (including Mediterranean stations), the annual uniform allowance is increased by £5 to provide for the purchase and upkeep of tropical clothing.

*Active Service Outfit Allowance.*—£8 5s. when a nurse is required to provide herself with Active Service Outfit.

*Camp Kit Allowance.*—£7 10s. when a nurse is required to provide herself with camp kit.

## V.A.D. NURSING MEMBERS.

*Uniform Allowance.*—£10 on first joining for duty. £5 annual maintenance grant, after one year's service.

*Tropical Uniform Allowance, Active Service Outfit Allowance, Camp Kit Allowance.*—As above."

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## From a Nightingale Scholar.

*Miss Mildred Ellerker* writes: "It is hard to realise that nearly a year has passed away since I took the International Course at Bedford College. I keep in touch with as many of the students as possible, except those living in enemy territory. This I think is one of the most interesting outcomes of the course, as one is able to get the various points of view, and so valuable comparison can be made. The work here has been interesting and has made me feel better fitted to undertake the responsibilities of my new post, that of County Health Visitor under the Somerset County Council. I am also trying to find time to write a small book for Health Visitors, and then I would like to take the Diploma in Nursing at the end of this summer. I find the experience I gained last year invaluable in my Public Health work. It would be a great advantage if all Health Visitors could take a year's course instead of only six months, as there is a much greater store of knowledge to draw from, and one is enabled to study subjects which seem to be invaluable in Public Health work, such as

psychology and more intensive study of social welfare work."

[Miss Ellerker was the last student to whom the National Council of Nurses awarded a Nightingale Scholarship in 1938, and by her enthusiasm benefited immensely from her studies. Thus the Council realises the gift was well bestowed.—Ed.]

## To Fight Means the "Kick Out."

*An L.C.C. Nurse* writes: "This fight with our masters, the L.C.C., is an economic struggle. The majority of us have no private means, and our conditions, including pensions, are not too bad. To come out and fight would, we fear, mean the kick out. Conditions such as we older nurses knew before the Centralization management by a Medical Officer and a Matron-in-Chief at County Hall, which has deprived our Matrons of power and initiative has produced a condition of submission to an oligarchy. We smile sometimes when we read and hear so much of Britain fighting for liberty of conscience for the world and down with tyranny—better begin at home."

*A Trades Union Nurse* writes: "I am sending you a list of the Hospitals and Medical Services Committee of the L.C.C. which selected and recommended a naturalised alien to the L.C.C. to rule over us; please publish it, as it will prove what serfs nurses are. Here is a Committee of persons, chairman a medical man, composed of several medical men and women, a midwife, and the laity, but *no Registered Nurse*, who apparently have the power to treat 10,000 nurses, many well-educated Registered Nurses, in the employment of the Council as they dare not and cannot treat their own workers if they employ any. It is high time this huge staff united and at least demanded human and professional rights. Who are the members of this Committee that they should assume absolute power over us? Mere nobodies as far as I can judge, and like nobodies inflated with power they have not the discretion to apply. I have stopped colleagues resigning as the time is near when not only the L.C.C., but the whole country will be called upon to listen to the workers organised on a self-governing basis."

[We print these expressions of opinion from L.C.C. Nurses, as typical of others received, but when all is said and done, we can but realise that unless people are prepared to sacrifice pence for principles, serfs they will remain. No resigning at the present time, that way leads to suffering for the sick.—Ed.]

## A FRENCH HERO SALUTES.

The portrait on card of "A French Hero Salutes" which is of a most inspiring nature, can be obtained from the office B.J.N. 19, Queen's Gate London, S.W.7, price 6d. if called for, 9d. if sent by post. We feel sure everyone who secures this portrait will have it simply framed and realise its elevating influence.

## THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT, FOUNDED 1888,

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## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR AUGUST.

Describe the mental and physical changes which may occur in encephalitis lethargica. Discuss the care and management of a post-encephalitic defective.

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