

THE following lectures have been arranged for the Winter Session of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to be given at the Offices, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., on the following dates, at 8 p.m. : Jan. 18th, 1895, "Private Nursing," by Mrs. GRAY; Feb. 15th, 1895, "Practical Demonstration on the Nursing of Rectal and Abdominal Surgical Cases," by Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK; March 15th, 1895, "The Modern Trained Nurse," by Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, M.D.; and April 19th, 1895, "Women as Lecturers," by Miss ANNESLEY KENEALY. Admission to members will be free. To the public a charge of 1s. will be made.

THE second course of Preliminary Educational Lectures of the Royal British Nurses' Association, will commence in the first week in February, the lecturers being Mr. LAWSON, Dr. LOUIS PARKES, Miss ISLA STEWART, and Miss DE PLEDGE. The course which recently terminated was most excellent, and it is to be hoped that a greater and greater number of women who contemplate entering Nurse Training Schools, or becoming efficient housewives, will attend these lectures.

WE would remind our readers that tickets can be obtained from Mrs. ANDREWS, Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council, 22, Cheyne Gardens, S.W., for the next conference to take place at 8 p.m., on the 17th inst., at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, and at which a Paper will be read by Miss MOLLETT, on "Matrons under the Poor Law." We hope a goodly number of lady Guardians of the Poor will make a point of being present.

AN enjoyable Christmas was spent at the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park. After a liberal and seasonable dinner, graced by the presence of a fine turkey—the gift, as in previous years, of a former (private) patient—some recitations by Miss Matilda ELLIS, of Park Road, Kilburn, were greatly appreciated. To those who know Miss MIRIAM RIDLEY, the Matron, it is needless to say that no pains on her part were spared to brighten the occasion, and her staff loyally aided her efforts. Among the pleasures of the day was the annual presentation to Miss RIDLEY by the Nurses, which, this year, took the form of a very handsome afternoon tea-table.

MISS AMY ROBERTSON, the Lady Superintendent, was the recipient, on Christmas Day, of a token of esteem and gratitude from the Nursing Staff of St. Helena's Home. The gifts consisted of a silver table lamp and an ebony and silver tea-tray. The good feeling which prompts the offering of such gifts is, we are glad to note, greatly on the increase,

and Nurses are beginning to appreciate at its true value the self-denying and laborious work often performed by their Superintendents on their behalf.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that at the forthcoming Dramatic Entertainment to be given at Queen's Gate Hall, South Kensington, in aid of the Brighton Home of Rest for Nurses, a certain number of half-crown seats will be reserved for Nurses; but for these early application is desirable, to the Hon. Sec., 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., or to Miss Daisy Robins, 18, St. Stephen's Square, W. It is hoped that a large number will avail themselves of this opportunity, and make it known to their friends.

CONSIDERABLE interest is being felt at present concerning the friction which exists at a well-known Metropolitan Poor Law Infirmary. It is probably largely due to the standing cause of such disagreements—to which we have alluded in these columns so frequently of late—the ill-defined positions of the Matron and the Medical Superintendent respectively. There are, however, in this present case, perhaps, the elements of further friction in the fact that one of the Assistant Matrons is a sister-in-law of the Medical Superintendent, and was so appointed, despite the protest of several Guardians, who considered that other candidates had better qualifications. We express no opinion upon this particular case; but, as a general principle, we are most decidedly of opinion that it is not desirable for the relatives of permanent officials to be chosen for other appointments on the staff. It savours too much of favouritism, not to say of jobbery, to be altogether satisfactory; and it affords the disappointed and rejected candidates an opportunity for suspicion, if not of formal complaint. Moreover, we are of opinion that for any Medical Officer of a Poor Law Infirmary to have near relations of his own in subordinate posts in the Nursing department, is apt, even with the best intentions on both sides, to lead to unnecessary misunderstandings and friction, harmful alike to the interests of the Institution and of the sick poor. We understand that, in this particular instance, the Guardians propose to petition the Local Government Board to abolish the office held by the relative of the Medical Superintendent—presumably, to eliminate that officer from the staff; but, as the post is undoubtedly necessary, this appears to be a mistake so far as the benefit of the Infirmary work is concerned, and we think that under the circumstances the Assistant Matron in question would be well advised to send in her resignation without waiting for any action on the part of the Guardians. We purposely mention no names, because we feel bound to believe that every

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