

Coming Events.

July 22nd.—Quarterly meeting of Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton, at Lady Jeune's, 79, Harley Street, 5 p.m.
Opening of the New Front Building of the Royal Free Hospital, by the Prince and Princess of Wales, at 1 p.m.

July 23rd.—Adjourned Council Meeting of Matrons' Council, Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 5 p.m.

July 24th.—Annual Meeting Royal British Nurses' Association, Queen's Hall, Langham Place, 12 o'clock.

July 25th.—Meeting of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Women, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, 11 a.m.

July 26th.—H.R.H. the Princess of Wales will present the certificates to the third and fourth thousand Nurses of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses at Marlborough House, at 3 p.m.

say we could get all this at the British Nurses' Association Club. But this is not managed on communal lines, there is no club atmosphere about it, and consequently the Nurses do not appreciate it to any great extent. The Americans are far ahead of us in their views of combination and unity, as shown in their social and club organisations. Is it not possible for us Nurses to have a living unity and a progressive spirit in our associations that will lead to advanced schemes for mutual help and benefit? Is it not time for us to band ourselves together and work ourselves for what we want? And above all, to organise Co-operative Holidays.

Sincerely yours,

A STEP FORWARD.

IS THERE A FAULT IN THE TRAINING?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—As a lay person totally unconnected with the Nursing or medical professions, I am hesitating somewhat before addressing myself to a technical journal with technical readers on the subject of my heading, "Is there a fault in the training?"

But, on the principle that "outsiders see most of the game," I would like to call attention to a few points which I regard as grave defects in the training of Nurses. Of course I am speaking only of the private Nurse "as she is seen" in our homes—of Hospital workers as such, I have absolutely no knowledge. Through a series of severe illnesses in my family, I have had occasion to come into intimate relation with a good many private Nurses, and it has occurred to me that many of them stand very much in need of some special training to fit them for their special work. On one occasion a member of the household fainted. It was natural to ask the help of our trained Nurse—but she had no idea how to act. "Send for the doctor," she said in a bewildered way. Well, we could all have suggested that. "A little brandy might do good," she murmured, but whether to be applied internally or externally, she gave no information. At this juncture an untrained person came to the rescue. She placed the fainting person in a recumbent position—the Nurse had left her sitting up in an armchair—with a pillow under the shoulders so as to depress the head, unfastened the clothing, put the hands in cold water, and placed a wet handkerchief across the forehead and nostrils, and restored the patient in just *two minutes*. She then insisted that the recumbent position should be maintained for half an hour, quickly whipped up a raw egg with hot water and a little brandy, and made a thoroughly good case of it.

To our enquiries as to where she had acquired such valuable knowledge, she modestly but proudly said, "I attended some County Council Lectures on First Aid to the Injured, and took my certificate," which she later unfolded before our admiring eyes.

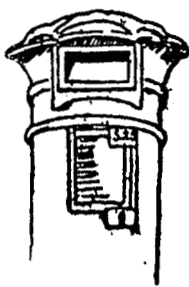
And here was a trained Nurse utterly at sea. On questioning her, I found that at the large and important Training School from which she emanates, there is no instruction given on the subject of Emergencies. When I asked her what would have happened if one of the patients in her late Hospital had fainted, "Why," she said, "Sister would have done something, or the house-physician, or a student."

Now it appears to me that no Nurse should be sent out of her Hospital labelled "Trained" unless she has a full knowledge of how to meet the common everyday emergencies and accidents to which every household is liable. It would mean so little extra in the curriculum of a Nurse—it would mean so much to those who employ them.

Hoping you will pardon this expression of the views of a lay-person,

I am, yours faithfully,

A PRACTICAL PERSON.



Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

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.

CO-OPERATIVE HOLIDAYS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—After reading the letter on the above subject in a recent RECORD, I positively stopped awake the greater part of the night, weaving into a possible reality the dreams of seeing a little of the world which I have so long cherished. Do you really think it might be possible to organise so delightful a scheme as Co-operative Holidays, and that we might some day include a trip to Switzerland in the plan?

From my daily observations of life I am struck more and more with the isolation of our lives, and I am impressed by the enormous waste, not only of money but of energy, which isolated so-called "individualism" leads to. Year after year one takes a holiday, often by oneself, going to country or seaside lodgings in rather a dreary sort of way. We are told it is "healthy to have a change," but I always maintain that the benefit to our constitutions is trebly increased by every moment of enjoyment and by every thrill of joy we can manage to extract from our annual holiday.

And from the monetary point of view, how very far small sums of money will go if put into a common fund and spent on the co-operative principle. This is proved by the very small sum for which tourist and other agencies are able to arrange foreign trips and sea-voyages. Now if we Nurses had a Co-operative Holiday Society there would be no "middleman"—there would be no expensive offices and advertisements, as there must be in connection with the agencies—so that all the money we put into the scheme would be returned to us in facilities for travel and enjoyment which at present are absolutely out of the question.

I quite agree with your correspondent that, while the Royal British Nurses' Association has been of much value to us from a professional point of view, it is not, so far, working in any direction that will make the Nurse's daily life a happier one, and after all, what appeals most to all of us is a something in our every-day life. We want better social opportunities, educational advantages and a communal spirit among the Nurses. Now some people would

previous page

next page