

and most likely a far too large, view of it for any means that he has in his mind to carry out. But it is more probable that his new organisation will be the foundation of a revolution in charity methods, than that it will convert a million bodies and souls. Perhaps £100,000 is too much to pay for an experiment based on a considerable want of knowledge, especially when the fiat of one man can easily convert the money into a public abuse. The scheme, however, suggests the serious question, If we had no charities to-day, and had to grapple with distress, how should we proceed? Should we set to work to form a thousand charities as we have at present, with one thousand paid secretaries and one thousand rents; or should we appeal to the Government to deal, through the Guardians, or through some new department, with the poor, the tramps, and the unemployed, out of one common fund, and on some sensible plan of operation? This appears to be Mr. Booth's idea, only he forgets that he is not the Government. His only substitute is the religious element, which he hopes will be an immediate solvent of the most difficult question of these present times. If there were ever such a reconstruction of the charities, would the new, and comprehensive one be disfigured by such a scandalous invention as the voting system, and by the careful avoidance of all intercommunication with themselves and the other relieving agencies, especially the Poor Law? It may well be asked why all the starving and houseless we have heard so much of lately did not in their distress go to the casual wards of the Guardians, which, with food, are always open to them free of any charge.—Yours, &c.,  
CARITAS.

## THE POST CARD EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the books you so kindly sent me, which arrived this morning. I am very much pleased with them. Please accept my sincere thanks.—Yours truly,  
SISTER KING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of "The Care of the Sick," which is a splendid book and most useful to Nurses. I shall be pleased to recommend it to my friends.—Faithfully yours,  
MARY SPANTON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I was very much surprised this morning when I received your kind note congratulating me on being the winner of the Post-card Prize recently. I beg to return you and the judges my sincere thanks for all the trouble and pains you have taken regarding the competition; also for choosing me out of so many. Again thanking you very much for your kindness,—I am, Sir, yours very truly,  
MARY A. W. DELAHUNT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—I hear from home that you have sent the books as reward for the Post-card Competition in which I was successful. I am sorry not to have written to thank you before, but am visiting, and did not at once hear of their arrival. With many thanks for the books,—I remain, yours faithfully,  
EDITH A. GIBBS.

## SPECIAL PRIZE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—My sincerest thanks for the beautiful book ("Wars of Queen Victoria's Reign") which you sent for my consolation prize in the competition for badges for the R. B. N. A.

It is worth a great effort to try and gain the competition prizes, if only to receive the congratulations of fellow-Nurses, and their love and unselfishness shown towards me when I am fortunate to gain the trophy.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
MARY JOHNSON, M.R.B.N.A.

## BADGE OR NO BADGE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—It appears to my mind that the idea of a badge for the arm is much to be preferred to anything else—much more appropriate and more distinctive than a brooch, or any kind of article suspended from the neck; and I do not think there are many Nurses who wear trinkets, watch-chains, &c. (certainly not when at a case), whereas the badge can be worn at all times. Again, I think a red band with white cross and letters would harmonise, and look well on almost any description of uniform a Nurse may wear. Personally, I should feel a pleasure in wearing a distinctive badge of the R. B. N. A.—Yours, &c.,  
LOUISA NELSON, M.R.B.N.A.

## APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

I AM very pleased to become a subscriber, and like the Record very much.—Yours, &c.,  
F. N.  
We are glad to see that you have reduced the price of the Nursing Record to one penny.—Yours, &c.,  
L. F.

## MRS. TAYLOR'S ESSAY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—I have just finished reading Mrs. J. G. Taylor's essay, and am rather surprised at some of her statements, especially the following:—"A 'Sister' is generally a lady, and is trained solely to rule, and is never taken from the ranks of Assistant Nurses." I know for certain that Sisters and Matrons who are of use in a Hospital, and those who make their Nurses under them happy and comfortable, are always taken from the ranks, as she styles it; and those Sisters and Matrons who have not undergone the drudgery of Probationership, and acted as Assistant Nurses, have no right to fill the posts. I know that sometimes an inefficient person is put into such a post simply because she happens to be somebody's daughter or sister requiring to maintain herself, and then there is nothing but misery for those under her, owing to her bad management from lack of knowledge.

I should also like to inform Mrs. Taylor that there are "ladies" to be found amongst the common "rank" who love their work, and who can be happy without power to domineer over their sisters as Matrons usually do, and are only happy when doing so. I trust the time is not far distant when those who do the hard work will be treated as ladies, and not only those who push themselves forward, all talk.—I remain,  
ONE OF THE RANK.

## HALVIVA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In convalescence from serious and protracted illness, in addition to the excellent Nursing now provided in our Hospitals, and strict attention to sanitation and personal hygiene, a tonic is generally required. Such, I venture to assert, we possess in "Halviva," prepared from the Indian "kreat."

The natives have from time immemorial attributed almost miraculous properties to this plant, the men calling it the strength-giver, and the women maintaining that it is a beautifier (I presume by improving health); while both sexes regard it as a wonderful tonic and restorative.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)