

"LOURDES."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is with the greatest pleasure and interest that week by week our community read the NURSING RECORD, but to-day I find myself hesitating to place it in the hands of the Sisters on account of a review of M. Zola's latest novel, which is by no means pleasant reading for Catholics, who believe that even in the latter end of the 19th century God's arm is not shortened, and that He the All Powerful can as well heal the sick by the instrumentality of the water of Lourdes as in days of yore He healed them in the water of Bethesda. That all the so-called miracles at Lourdes are not worthy of credence no enlightened Catholic would for one moment dispute; and those that belong to the order of neurotic diseases should be credited with difficulty if at all. When, however, we come to the question of acute diseases such as cancers, tumours, pulmonary phthisis, and the like, which have been under medical treatment and certified to by eminent physicians previous to going to Lourdes, and have been further examined by medical men at the Grotto itself before entering the water, it is time for us to hesitate and ask ourselves whether after all there is not some truth in the so-called miracles. Allow me to refer your readers to the able articles on the subject, which have recently appeared in *The Mouth* (published by Burns and Oates), from the well-known pen of F. Clarke, S. J., who, in discussing each miracle of which he treats, brings forth the medical evidence bearing on the case. Considering the estimation in which M. Zola's novels are held by the non-Catholic religious world, I should scarcely have thought any one would have been ready to accept his criticism of anything appertaining to religion.—I am, faithfully yours in Christ,

MOTHER M. VERONICA.

St. Veronica's Convent, Chiswick, W.

Comments and Replies.

Frau Zimmermann, Berlin.—We have visited some of your magnificent German Institutions, and noted the *devotion to duty* of German Deaconess Nurses in Berlin and other cities, but are of opinion that *one* year's training is quite inadequate for the efficient education of the modern Nurse. For the sake of progress in the Nursing profession in Germany, it is deeply to be deplored that the Empress Mother is no longer at the head of the Woman movement in your country.

Communications (not yet or otherwise replied to) have been received from:—

- A. Mrs. Roberts-Austen, Chilworth; Miss Ainsworth, Derby.
- B. Miss Bannister, Cheltenham; Miss Browning, Manchester; Mr. Francis Bisset, Glasgow.
- C. Miss Cuddy, Glasgow; Miss Carstairs, London; Miss Annie Cazenove, Betchworth.
- D. Sister Dora, Scarborough.
- F. Miss Fowler, Camberwell (with enclosure); Miss French, Jersey.
- G. Mrs. Gordon, London.
- H. Miss Haddington, Cape Town (with enclosure); Miss Horsley, London; Miss L. Herbert, Fromby (with enclosure); Dr. Guy Hinsdale, Philadelphia.
- I. Miss E. J. R. Landale, Edinburgh (with enclosure).
- M. Miss Masters, Philadelphia.
- R. Mrs. Rose, London (with enclosure); Miss Rutherford, Chicago (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Stevens, Liverpool (with enclosure).
- V. Mother M. Veronica, Chiswick.
- W. Miss Adelaide Watson, London (with enclosure).

The Registered Nurses' Society.

(A CO-OPERATION OF PRIVATE NURSES.)

269, REGENT STREET, W.

Telegraphic Address: "SOROR, LONDON."

Membership is only open to Registered Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association of three years' Hospital training. Members will obtain their full earnings, less 7½ per cent. commission—to cover the expenses of management. Any surplus will be set aside for the benefit of the members. Many of the leading medical men in London and the Provinces have promised the Society their cordial support. Applications for membership may be made, in the first instance by letter only, to the Secretary at the Offices.

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