

friends; it is surprising how many kind people there are in the world.

The only drawback I can see to private nursing is the constant change from one house to another; but we cannot have all we want, and private nursing, or nursing of any kind, has compensations of much greater value than £ s. d.

PRIVATE NURSE.

DEAR MADAM,—May I be permitted space in your valuable journal to say that I think one of the reasons why private nursing is unpopular with nurses, and that nurses are a trial to the public, is because of the conditions under which such nurses work. An Englishman's house is his castle, and there are few of us who care for visits even from intimate and dear friends of more than a few weeks' duration, and yet under present conditions a person quite unknown to us suddenly becomes part of the family for weeks and months together. What wonder if the relations are often strained? The nurse may be admirable as regards her work, but, nevertheless, the close companionship of weeks may reveal her as quite incompatible. On the other hand, the nurse may feel herself quite out of harmony with her surroundings, and may long, when her work is over, to get right out of an atmosphere which oppresses her. No other class of men or women work in this way. It is conceivable that one's doctor, much as one appreciates his professional skill, might be an incubus if he stayed in the house all the twenty-four hours round. But he pays his visit, does his work, and goes. Consequently one looks forward to his visits and appreciates them at their true value. Of course, in the case of private nurses it is often a necessity that they should live in the patient's house, but where this is not the case it would, in my view, be very preferable for both patient and nurses if they could return to a central home, either morning or evening as the case may be, for their recreation and rest. It appears to me that in large towns this might often be practicable. I believe it would go far to stay the unpopularity of private nurses. It is not the nurse at work, but the strange visitor in the house who is felt to be an incubus.

Yours faithfully,

COMMON SENSE.

Comments and Replies.

Miss A. M. Thomson, *Mafeking*.—Postal Order safely received.

Nurse Keene.—You will find full scope for your nursing knowledge. You will meet, not only with a great variety of the cases which one finds in the wards of a general hospital at home, both surgical and medical, but also many new and interesting tropical diseases. The variety in malarial cases also is great, no two cases being alike, while the emergencies are often so sudden as to tax the resourcefulness of a highly-trained nurse.

Nurse A. Beeton.—District nursing is a branch of work which has many attractions. There is the variety of cases, the fact that all the work done is really nursing, the outdoor life entailed is healthier than long hours of confinement in a hospital ward or sick room, and, to a lover of humanity, district nursing presents a desirable field of work. It also touches questions of deep interest to the student of sociology. At the same time the work is hard and trying on account of the exposure to all weathers. To be successful and happy in district work a real love of nursing and of humanity are essential.

Notices.

EDITORIAL RECIPROCITY.

We are informed that many nurses in America do not subscribe to this journal because of the trouble of obtaining a foreign money order, and *vice versa*, with English nurses in reference to the *American Journal of Nursing*. The Editors of these two journals, whose aims and policy are identical, have therefore arranged to make things easy for these busy nurses, and, to save trouble, will receive and forward subscriptions. Thus any subscriber to this journal wishing to subscribe for the American journal may send the 10s. 6d., with the address to which she wishes the journal sent, to The Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., and it will then be duly forwarded to the publishing office of the American journal at Philadelphia. Thus a cheque for 17s. will enable those interested in nursing matters to receive both journals for twelve months without further trouble.

A HELPING HAND.

The Editor will be greatly obliged if regular subscribers who receive an additional copy of this journal, will pass it on to some friend who is likely to be interested in the aims of the journal, and also if they will encourage their friends to become subscribers.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page VIII.

Outings.

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