

were responsible. It was quite impossible to have hospital work stand still during the two or three years the nurses were away in South Africa; those left at home moved up, and, necessarily, probationers stepped in to fill the vacancies, and it is not reasonable or possible to re-admit those dropped off the Reserve at a moment's notice. With private nurses, the excitement of active service seems in many instances to have quite unsettled them, and numbers have remained in South Africa, or are anxious for colonial service. In the future it is to be hoped that the new Imperial Military Service will be so organised as to meet all needs in time of war, if our boasted civilisation finds it imperative to kill and devastate, instead of being guided by the light of reason.—ED.]

WHY NOT SKY-SCRAPERS?

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that a correspondent in your valuable journal suggests that hospitals in large centres should be built on the sky-scraper plan, and that Bart's might lead the way. But, with all due deference to "An American Nurse in London," it seems to me the plan would be a very dangerous one, even if, as she suggests, outside balcony stair-cases are provided. It is impossible to contemplate with equanimity one's position as nurse in one of the top wards of a sky-scraper in the event of a fire. Under the most favourable circumstances, and with plenty of help, it would be a work of time to carry the patients, many of them critically ill, down a narrow outside staircase, in single file, while if the fire happened on a dark night, or in winter, when the stairs were slippery, the difficulty would be intensified. No; much as I love the dear old hospital, I would rather see Bart's razed to the ground and rebuilt in the suburbs than retained on the present site on the sky-scraper plan.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A BART'S NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Evans.—The use of flannelette should be prohibited in hospitals. It is dangerous to life, and accidents are constantly occurring in connection with it. Viyella is an ideal material for children's night-dresses and underclothing, as it is soft, warm, and safe.

An Indignant Mother.—It should not be possible for any woman to describe herself as a trained nurse after a few months' experience in a special hospital, but at present there is no standard of nursing education. The public, therefore, are at the mercy of any unqualified person who dons a uniform, and will continue to be so until they insist upon having some guarantee that the women who come into their houses in times of critical illness have been educated for the responsible work which they undertake. Quack nurses are quite as dangerous as quack practitioners of medicine.

Enquirer.—We cannot advise you to undertake monthly nursing after only a few weeks' special training. The duties connected with this work are various and responsible, demanding a basis of knowledge in general nursing. You might apply to the Matrons of some of the Poor Law infirmaries, in some of which an excellent training is now given in general and obstetric nursing.

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.

Colony Life.

EFFECT OF CLIMATE OVERCOME BY PROPER FOOD.

The necessity of pleasant, nutritive, and proper food is highly appreciated in hot countries, particularly by those unused to the climate and native customs in cooking.

A soldier writes: "In this land of bad food and disordered stomachs, a nearly fatal attack of malaria left my digestion for many months in such a state that food of any kind distressed me terribly. I suffered from the effect of drugs, but dared not eat. It was simply misery to live. The so-called remedies only seemed to aggravate my sufferings.

"Some friend suggested Grape-Nuts ready-cooked porridge, and I gave it a trial. To my surprise and pleasure, it did all and more than was claimed for it. I am now, after using the food for 18 months, in good order, and I have long lost all feeling of pain or discomfort after eating. In fact, I live again. I would not be without Grape-Nuts for the world. It is not only the excellent effect of your food that renders it valuable, it is also delicious to the taste, possessing flavour of its own, and can be prepared in many ways to suit many palates." Name given by Grape-Nuts Co., Temple Chambers, E.C.

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