

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have been watching your correspondence columns with some interest to see if anyone would reply to Miss Wilson's statement that there was "only one" founder of the Royal National Pension Fund, namely Sir Henry C. Burdett.

It appears somewhat ungracious to the four gentlemen who put down £5,000 apiece to start the fund to deny them any share in the matter. Surely they, and they alone, are the only real founders, for without them, or others equally liberally-minded, there would have been no Pension Fund to this day. If thinking of a thing, and wishing for it, constitutes a "founder," then many of us can lay claim to the title. I have "founded" all kinds of schemes for the good of the nursing profession. But they have remained castles in the air, for the simple reason that, having more ideas than cash, I have not been able to carry them into effect. How is it possible for Sir Henry Burdett to be the "only founder" of the Royal National Pension Fund, when without the liberality of the four gentlemen above mentioned this Fund must also have remained a dream?

Yours faithfully,

PERPLEXED.

[There is point in our correspondent's argument.—Ed.]

A NECESSARY QUALIFICATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am always glad when someone finds the necessity for urging upon trained nurses the need of experience in maternity work. Did one not know that nurses are by no means always experienced in this branch one would suppose that, as a matter of course, every nurse was taught to be a competent attendant in maternity cases, and was skilled in the washing and dressing of infants. At any time a nurse may be called upon to care for a sick infant, and how can she possibly do so properly if she does not even know how to look after a healthy one? Yet take ten certificated nurses from a general hospital, and set each down to wash a newly-born infant, and—well, you'll be sorry for the infant in their untrained, ignorant hands. If you find one of the ten passably efficient you will probably have struck a high average. Surely any trained nurse, before she is sent out to the world, should be taught this elementary duty. As nurses go further afield the need becomes still more striking. Already the Colonial Nursing Association requires evidence of this knowledge of almost all its accepted candidates; foreign missionary societies lay equal stress on it for nurses who volunteer for work under their auspices, and now we have a lady interested in the provision of nurses on passenger ships stating that a knowledge of maternity work must be regarded as a *sine quâ non*. When a minimum scheme of nursing education is drawn up I hope the authorities will take these facts into consideration.

If I had my way all the elder girls in our national schools should be taught to wash and dress a baby, and girls of the middle-classes should not be allowed to consider their education complete till they were proficient in this womanly duty.

Believe me,

Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

OBSTETRIC NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

Certificated Nurse.—Your best plan would be to write to the Matrons of some of the Metropolitan Asylums Board hospitals, and ask them if they have a vacancy. You will find a list of these hospitals in the Nursing Directory, published at 11, Adam Street, Strand, price 5s.

Matron.—The bedding supplied by the Hospitals and General Contracts Company, Ltd., 33, Mortimer Street, W., is very satisfactory in use and moderate in price. We should advise you to write to the Manager, 33, Mortimer Street, W., and ask for particulars. The company contracts to supply all kinds of hospital and institution requisites.

Sister Mary.—In our view it is preferable, if possible, to cross the Channel when taking a holiday, the change is so thorough, and it is consequently the greatest rest. There are many places, both in Belgium and France, where comfortable accommodation, either in hotels or in pensions, is to be had most reasonably. Wherever you go you should provide yourself with a "Baedeker" of the country. It is a mine of useful information.

Mrs. Evans.—It is quite useless to attempt to train as a nurse unless you intend to go through every detail of the course. In the first place no training-school would accept you as a probationer under the conditions you suggest; and, secondly, you would find the result very unsatisfactory to yourself if it were possible. If you adopt nursing as a profession there can be no half-hearted allegiance. It is an exacting task-mistress, and demands your whole devotion.

Miss Ellen James.—The book is "Materia Medica for Nurses." It is published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand. The price is 6s. It is the most useful book on the subject we know.

Notices.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The annual report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has been published, and can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, price 1½d., post free, or 7d. for six copies. All nurses should obtain a copy of this report, and acquaint themselves with the history and progress of the Registration movement. Application forms for membership of the Society can be obtained from the same address.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)