

one another and to discuss together with us the best way to work. Then we shall have addresses from Mr. Webster and medical missionaries, and some account of the work of the N.M.U. In the summer we had a very interesting meeting of this kind and many nurses came; we hope that, as we are having one this winter in a more central locality, and the work of the Union is better known now than it was then, a much larger number of nurses will be present. We shall be glad to welcome any nurse who is free that evening to come.

We have had inquiries from nurses in Scotland, Ireland, and all parts of England concerning the N.M.U., and we shall be very glad when we are able to visit all the chief centres in the country, especially Edinburgh, as we have heard from a nurse, now a missionary in Persia, that there would be a good opening for the Union among nurses there. One nurse in the North of England heard of the N.M.U. and wrote, saying she would be glad to be put in touch with a nurse who was interested in missionary work, so that she could write to her sometimes, as there was no one in sympathy with her in her own hospital.

Also we are busy preparing a course of Bible study on the "Life of Our Lord," especially arranged for nurses, short and suggestive, which we trust will prove a real help and meet a felt need by giving a definite portion to be read each day from the Bible, supplemented with brief notes and helpful thoughts. We hope to get these out for quite a small sum each, and that they will be ready by Christmas, so that in the New Year all our nurses will be able to use them, and that this united studying of the Bible will form a very real link between us all.

We are continually getting requests from medical missionaries and societies for fully-trained nurses, earnest Christians, to go to the mission field. I should like to mention some special needs which have been brought before us quite recently.

1. Dr. Wheeler wants three nurses—two for his hospital work among Jews, and one for work among Europeans in Jerusalem.

2. Dr. Creasey Smith (B.M.S.) of Shansi, China, wants a nurse to go out with him next spring.

3. The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society want nurses for Bangalore, for Peshawar, and two for China.

4. The C.M.S. Hospitals at Quetta (Beluchistan) and at Pakhoi (S. China) are also in need of nurses.

Are there not some Christian nurses, into whose hands this letter comes, who, in this great need, will hear God's voice calling, and will gladly respond with whole-hearted purpose, "Here am I, send me"?

May I add just one word. About three weeks ago I changed my address, and am now living within three minutes' walk of the Notting Hill Gate (Tube and the Metropolitan) stations, and have a little sitting-room to myself. I shall be glad to welcome here any nurse who likes to come and see me at any time.

Yours very truly,  
K. MILLER.

26, Horbury Crescent, W.

#### A NURSES' DEFENCE UNION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Why not a Nurses' Defence Union? As you remarked in last week's editorial, medical practitioners have found it necessary to organise Medical Defence Unions, the value of which to them is in-

disputable. I am a private nurse, and cannot help realising that the public feeling towards trained nurses is not as nice as it used to be. It is very hard on good nurses, and those who know their work and try to do it rightly; but one can hardly wonder that the public have become suspicious about private nurses when they so often have sent to them women with little or no training, and, moreover, lazy and vulgar persons. If we, trained nurses with a three years' certificate, who are earning our living as private nurses, formed a Defence Union, it would be a great relief, as the decision in the Oldham case will incite badly-disposed people to accuse us of neglect and injury when we are innocent. Sometimes one gets very discouraged in private work, and longs to be back in the safety of the hospital.

Yours gratefully,  
REGISTRATIONIST.

#### A HARD CASE.

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

MADAM,—All you say about the Oldham Nursing Association case may be true, but I and others feel much sympathy with the plaintiffs. A few years ago I took my little son into a nursing home in London for an operation—a very serious one. This was successfully performed by a first-rate surgeon, and the wound was healed, as he predicted, at the end of a fortnight. This I was prepared to afford, but imagine my distress when I was told that a slight burn had been occasioned by a water-bottle on my son's leg. This slight burn was ultimately a wound of 3 in. long—deep and painful—and necessitated a three weeks' longer residence in the home. This I could ill afford. It cost me about £30, which I paid, thinking it most unjust that I should have to do so or move my son to my home, which was in the country. I now think he should have received board, lodging, and free treatment at the home until he was well, and, had I my time to come over again, I should insist upon this course. I know of other cases of bottle-burns by careless private nurses, and it is to be hoped that this £300 damages will not only make nurses more careful, but compel nursing associations and hospitals to send out efficiently-trained nurses, instead of semi-trained women, as they often do, and home hospitals to employ certificated nurses instead of probationers.

Yours truly,  
A MOTHER.

#### THE COST OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I observe that the Home Hospitals Association is again appealing for funds—£7,000 this time—to support Fitzroy House Home Hospital for the "well-to-do." It would be interesting if the Committee would state how many thousand pounds this little private hospital of forty rooms has already cost the community, and especially as high prices are charged for many of the rooms, the cost to some patients being quite on a par with that charged by the majority of West-end proprietary home hospitals.

Why should Fitzroy House not be self-supporting? It professes not to make a profit; therefore it should, if economically managed, pay its way at lower rates than are charged by the West-end homes, which naturally are desirous of making a just profit. It seems altogether unfair that thousands of pounds of public money should have already been invested in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)