

breed which can do an honest day's work in a thoroughly intelligent way, and, when well groomed, is thoroughly presentable, and fitted to prance sufficiently high to please lovers of discipline.

By-and-by, once the minimum standard of training is evolved, we shall see a demand upon the part of nurse educators for "higher qualifications" for those women who aspire to positions of responsibility in the nursing world, a world whose glory it is that it is essentially democratic, and gives a fair chance of promotion to every woman who enters it.—Ed.]

IS BEAUTY A BOON TO NURSES?

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

DEAR MADAM,—What a question to ask! Of course beauty is a boon to every woman, and is often an "open sesame" where all the virtues and good intentions combined fail to effect an entrance. I ask you, who cares for plain working women? Nobody. God alone knows the desperate drudgery and loneliness many of us endure—all the good things in life seem to pass us by, at least all those things one's degenerate flesh lusteth after. I loathe ill-cut clothes; I have to wear them. I revolt against coarse and tasteless food; I have to swallow it. I enjoy brightness and light, and gay society and life generally; I cannot afford them. Mortification of the flesh is compulsory, but it does not make me feel a bit nearer Heaven.—Yours,

ANOTHER GARGOYLE.

THE PENAL SERVITUDE BILL.

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

MADAM,—As Sir Robert Anderson has been permitted to use the *Nineteenth Century* for sneering at "humanity-mongers" (we willingly accept the term), and as the magazine is closed to any reply from the humanitarian side, we are compelled to appeal to the courtesy of the Press.

Three years ago we incurred the displeasure of Sir R. Anderson by our criticism of his first proposals for the treatment of criminals, and now, in his article on the Home Office Bill "to amend the law relating to penal servitude," he makes it appear that humanitarians are opposed to any form of imprisonment except the "short-sentence" system, which he describes as their "delight." The statement is not in accord with the facts. Our opposition to Sir R. Anderson's original proposals was the result not of any attachment to the "short sentence" as such, but to our detestation of the barbarous spirit of his suggestion that the more hardened class of burglars should be imprisoned not on an "indeterminate sentence" (for which there is something to be said), but absolutely and for life. "Many persons," he wrote, "would hold that a suitable punishment for an impenitent thief would be to crucify him; but torture can never be used without injury to the society which has recourse to it," the inference being that, so far as the thief personally is concerned, torture would be justifiable. It was against this sort of thing that we protested; and that we did not protest in vain is shown by the fact that Sir Robert Anderson has now altogether changed his tone.

Having found that his own panacea for crime has fallen very flat, Sir Robert seeks to rehabilitate himself by affecting to patronise the Home Secretary's

Bill, and by devoting to the "humanity-monger" some of the abuse which he formerly lavished on the burglar.—I am, &c.,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Humanitarian League.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Carwood, Bagthorpe.—We should advise you to apply in the first instance to the Central Red Cross Committee, 68, Victoria Street, S.W. The Red Cross Society in each country is the recognised medium through which services are offered to other nations in the event of war. Your best plan, therefore, is to ascertain if arrangements are being made to offer these services. If the reply is in the negative, we shall be glad to hear further from you.

Miss E. P. Evans.—You need not be hopeless of obtaining admission to a hospital at twenty-one. Many children's hospitals admit probationers at that age, and the Matrons of general hospitals are beginning to find that, given the right temperament, it is better to take young probationers in their first energy than to insist on mature years and to have the discarded of other professions.

Certificated Nurse.—There is much scope for usefulness for a trained nurse who takes up work as a health missionary. While the care of the sick is an essential branch of work for the good of the community, many nurses must often have felt sick at heart at the wastage and wreckage of human life with which they are constantly brought in contact. If the people had the most elementary knowledge of the laws of health, and of the proper methods of feeding and caring for infants and young children, many of the patients who fill our hospital beds would be in sound health. Systematic work in inculcating elementary knowledge on these points is, therefore, most necessary and valuable. In the past it has been too much neglected. We wish you well in your venture.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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.

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