

## IS BEAUTY A BOON TO NURSES?

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I send a line through your paper to the "Plain Women of our Profession" in answer to what I consider a very sad letter?

When reading it my mind instinctively turned to two verses in the Bible:

"He had no beauty that we should desire Him"; and again, "We love Him because He first loved us."

I think there are few professions that have such glorious opportunities of gaining the love of our fellow-creatures as that of a nurse, whether in hospital or private work, and I would encourage these plain women who complain of such "desperate loneliness" to try and imitate the love of our Great Example, and see how near Heaven it brings us!

May I quote, in conclusion, Professor Drummond's grand idea of "happiness":—

"A great love and much serving."

Yours very truly,

EUEANITA B. RUMBLE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for sympathetic summary at the end of letters in last week's Journal, which make short shrift of "gargoyles." I stated in my last letter, printed January 23rd, "that nobody cared for plain working women." You see, I was right; not even the gentle readers of your Journal!

Perhaps I should not make quite so sweeping an accusation against humanity.

I will tell you a little story.

Once in my sad career I found myself in a bus on a drenching night, fondly hoping it would land me a few yards from my suburban room. The fare was twopence. I opened my purse; it contained *one penny*. This meant a mile walk through the slush and wet, in long-suffering, somewhat leaky shoes. Two hurried tears dripped off my nose into that gaping, empty purse. Very silly, of course; but I was tired. When I ventured to look up, a pair of sad eyes opposite had taken in the whole sordid matter in a moment, for a minute later, upon the conductor demanding payment, she bought two whole-distance tickets. "Me and this lidy," she said, nodding her dingy crape bonnet at me, and daring me by a glance to deny the soft impeachment. "No offence, miss," she continued, handing me the welcome ticket, and no amount of pleading could get an address out of her to which I could return the money. "A pleasure, I'm sure," and "giving's a luxury as our sort don't often indulge in," &c., and every other retort courteous. Then she disappeared into the murky night, leaving me her everlasting debtor. One of the "large earted" sisterhood, indeed.

ANOTHER GARGOYLE.

[Has it ever occurred to this correspondent to earn an honest penny by her pen? This correspondence must now cease.—Ed.]

## THE CHICAGO FIRE.

DEAR EDITOR,—The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of January 9th has just arrived, and I hasten to beg for a word of defence for stricken Chicago in answer to the charge that the men of the audience in the

Troquois theatre fire saved themselves at the expense of the women and children.

We are bowed with grief and shame enough without that accusation, which I believe to be undeserved. Matinée audiences in this country are composed almost entirely of women at all seasons, as our men are too much engaged in business. At this one, it being holiday week, were an unusually large number of children, mostly in little theatre parties in charge of mother, grandmother, nurse, or teacher; these were almost wholly lost. It may be that individual men saved themselves over the bodies of the women and children, but in proportion to the number of men present there were many deaths.

It was my unhappy fortune to be in the vicinity shortly after the catastrophe occurred, and of all the escaped persons I saw in the streets there was just one man.

What every man in Chicago is responsible for, the corrupt officials and lax enforcement of the law, no one can deny, but the charge of criminal cowardice is really more than they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

ISABEL McISAAC.

Illinois Training-School for Nurses,  
304, Honore Street, Chicago.

[It was widely stated in the English Press at the time of the Chicago fire that men saved themselves in that awful holocaust by trampling down weak women and children. We are glad to learn, on the authority of Miss McIsaac, that there was little ground for this statement.—Ed.]

## Comments and Replies.

*One Interested in Hospitals.*—Whenever an Act for the Registration of Trained Nurses comes into force, there can be no doubt whatever that the interests of all women who have been in practice as nurses in the past, and are of good character, will have every consideration, even if their hospital training does not come up to the standard which will in the future be required. Any other course would be an injustice which would not for a moment be tolerated by any Government in office. In days to come, no doubt, the hospitals having only a few beds, and which cannot be regarded as training-schools, will be nursed by registered nurses.

## Notices.

## 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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