

## POOR FRANCE!

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

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to explain to your readers and to your Cairo correspondent who says "Well done, France!" how matters really stand. The Nursing College which is being built in Paris for the preparation of nurses is going to cost a hundred thousand francs; it is built in the grounds of the "Salpêtrière." It will have many lecture-rooms, library, drawing and dining rooms, one whole floor to lodge the "surveillantes" (Sisters), two other floors for the probationers, and arrangements will specially be made to allow the first set to have a constant supervision of the second set of inmates! As to the patients—the essential item—they are nowhere.

The Salpêtrière is an asylum for hysterical women, idiots, and aged people. The probationers, therefore, will have to learn nursing through lectures only (given by doctors!), or will have to go daily to other hospitals where the actual impossible set of infirmiers and infirmières have hold of the wards. How will they be trained? And what is the use of a floor-full of *surveillantes* with no wards to show their ability in? And how will it be possible to prepare thus future Ward Sisters? Who will be able to judge of the indispensable qualities of a nurse as superintendent if she is to be tested by theoretical examinations only?

For more than twenty years in France the custom has been to separate theoretical teaching and nurse-training (in fact, *nurse-training* is an unknown thing). It is thus that a great many persons possess a diploma of nursing *without ever having nursed*, and many more have worked for years in hospitals with no teaching whatever.

Now, everybody, from the Prime Minister downwards, seems to realise that a reform has to be made, and the Parisian hospital authorities build a college! They dare not, or cannot, get rid of the actual *personnel* of their hospital wards, which is to be pensioned according to former agreements, or sent for its old age to the *Salpêtrière*; they cannot change the hospital *directeur*, who rules it over each establishment, being neither a doctor nor a trained Matron, and yet so powerful that no nurse of the respectable class would submit to accept such a master. And thus the *Assistance publique* of Paris is going to try to make proper nurses without hospital training. Poor France! ANNA HAMILTON, M.D.

Bordeaux Protestant Hospital.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Matrons and nurses I have conversed with who are in favour of Registration all appear to imagine that, because a Bill to that end has been drafted, Registration is sure (as they say) to "come about" at an early date. These ladies apparently know nothing of the intricacies and trickeries in effecting legislation in this country, and seemed mightily disappointed when I pointed out that there are probably years of work ahead before the Legislature will be sufficiently conversant with the question to vote for the Nurses' Bill. And how about professional blockers—even when it is convinced? If this Bill gets through in five years it will do well.

A MEDICAL WELL-WISHER.

## Arrangements for the Berlin Congress.

Miss Mollett, Matron, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, is making arrangements to conduct a party of twenty to Berlin in June next, to attend the International Congress of Women, and the meeting of the International Council of Nurses. Those wishing for further information should apply to Miss Mollett.

## Comments and Replies.

Miss H. Cogle, *Eatonville, Liscard*.—Unquestionably a third year's experience would be of great advantage to you. We should advise you by all means to obtain it.

North Country Matron.—In reply to your inquiries—(1) Undoubtedly a candidate for registration in the future would be required to produce a recommendation from the Matron of her training-school as to character and suitability. (2) You will see by the Draft Registration Bill, published in our issue of January 30th, under the heading "Duties and Powers of the Council," it is provided that the General Nursing Council shall have power to frame rules "regulating the course of training and the conduct of examinations." (3) With regard to nurses who have a difficulty in passing theoretical examinations, we do not think that there is any likelihood of the theoretical standard being placed so high as to exclude a nurse of average intellect, and surely it is necessary that every nurse should possess this, seeing the great responsibilities which devolve upon her in the exercise of her profession. (4) We believe that Registration will enormously raise the standard of nursing ethics, but the functions of the General Nursing Council will be mainly to create and enforce a minimum educational standard, to register those who attain it, and to act as a disciplinary body. We must look largely to associations of nurses to create and maintain a high professional tone in our ranks.

## 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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)