

nurses. Why so? Does it lower the status of a double first at Oxford because another has just managed to scrape through with a pass?

The large number of suitable women, the opponents maintain, may still be employed, and may still, if they wish it, wear long veils; because they are debarred from using a title they have not earned they are not debarred from "filling many situations." It is perfectly true that all important hospitals give to those nurses who have earned them, by technical knowledge as well as by moral qualities, certificates, and so do non-important hospitals and hospitals where little or no training is given, where discipline exists not. Does that make certificates so valuable that we have no need for a uniform standard of minimum requirements, or for a legal recognition of such standard? And where are the greatest number of nurses trained and employed—in the large London hospitals, or in the large and small hospitals, in the nursing homes, and the nurses' institutes scattered up and down the length and breadth of the land? And why are these not to be considered because there are a certain number of large hospitals "sufficient unto themselves"? One cannot help feeling it is somewhat selfish policy on the part of those who can hold their own, and whose certificate all will gladly acknowledge is a "hall mark," to oppose a wider, broader policy which would be of benefit to a far larger number.

C. F.

THE INTERNATIONAL IDEA.

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

DEAR MADAM,—After attending the Conference on Organisation with a view to International Affiliation last week, I feel I must express my appreciation of the inspiration it was to me, and, I am sure, to others also. There was in those present a spirit of earnest purpose and enthusiasm which one remembers in the early days of the R.B.N.A. One felt that the women there had the desire for closer co-operation and unity, and the force to achieve it. The International Idea, as so ably expounded by yourself, was a most entrancing one.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO WAS PRESENT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is urged from time to time against any movement for the organisation of nursing and nurses that "women never have co-operated, and they never will." In refutation of this assertion one need only instance the splendid co-operative movement which finds expression in the International Council of Women with its eighteen affiliated and organised National Councils. Amongst nurses, also, co-operation is advancing slowly but surely, and we have now the germ of a powerful organisation in the International Council of Nurses, from which some of us hope great things in the future. What, for instance, could be more stimulating than the Preamble to its Constitution, which runs thus:—"We nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our Profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour and the interests of the Nursing Profession."

We surely ought to get far on that programme,

which is one to which everyone inspired by a high ideal should be able to subscribe. Once thoroughly grasped, the International Idea is a fascinating one.

Yours faithfully,

A DISCIPLE.

COTTAGE NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As one of the nursing profession, and a reader of your valuable paper, might I ask you to give publication to what has been to me a sore grievance. I have been much interested in reading your reports and articles bearing upon nurses' State Registration, and heartily sympathise with all the efforts in progress to safeguard the interests of the nursing profession, and hope the Bill now before Parliament may become law. But to come to the point of my grievance. I am a "cottage nurse," with two and a-half years' experience, and have been anxious to obtain a post in an infirmary or large hospital, in order to qualify for my general certificate. Although I was under a thoroughly competent Matron, and have testimonials from doctors, these I find of little avail to me, inasmuch as I have made several applications in answer to advertisements for probationer nurses, and, in some cases, have been accepted and promised a vacancy; but beyond this I get no further, simply because I am a "cottage nurse." I should like to know what benefit State Registration would be to me. I look upon it as a great hardship that my two and a-half years' experience should be wasted, and, apparently, is against my getting in as a probationer to an infirmary or hospital to qualify for my general certificate. Will any one of your readers kindly inform me as to what I should do further under these circumstances, as I do not wish to lose any more of my time replying to these advertisements?

COTTAGE NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—No one who has been suffering from, or nursing, an infectious disease is eligible for admission to the Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest. Otherwise you are eligible. Write to the Matron, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, well in advance. The inclusive charges are 25s. a week for a separate bedroom, or 21s. when a double-bedded room is occupied.

Enquirer.—Membership of the Matrons' Council is open to past and present Matrons of Hospitals, and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions who are trained nurses. All information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, W.

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.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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