

evolved from a professional centre. Our uniform has been prostituted to ignoble ends; are we not ashamed to be seen in the streets in it? Our calling has also been prostituted to ignoble ends in police and criminal courts; may not this have much to do with the disinclination of the best women to give their lives to it? Sentiment is an immense factor in the shaping of events. I have no doubt whatever in my own mind that women still estimate "honour" as the highest good; therefore let us strive for an honourable standing in the community—its price is above rubies.

Yours sincerely,

PRESTIGE.

SOUND EDUCATION FOR ALL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am wondering which profession Miss Edla Wortabet has in her mind as an analogy for that of nursing, when she maintains that some branches of the work can be adequately filled by ex-house and parlour-maids. What other profession for either men or women fills even its lowest posts with recruits from the ranks of domestic service? That nursing will, sooner or later, take its position as one of the learned professions as an inevitable phase in its evolution is already obvious to many, and Registration will be an important step to this.

During my own experience in a maternity hospital, in which for some time I occupied a position on the staff, dozens of ex-domestic servants passed under my notice, as these formed the bulk of the pupil nurses. But a very short experience taught me that, when a nurse had to be selected for the more responsible duties, it was expedient to choose her from the very small minority of pupils possessing a good general education, because, when the necessity arose that the nurse should think for herself, the former class had proved apt to achieve some astonishing, if not actually dangerous, results in that direction. It is the ideas held by the uneducated woman which, to my mind, will always be a serious bar to her success as a nurse. No amount of [hospital] training can ever entirely alter these, or take the place of the mental and moral discipline comprehended in the bringing-up and general education enjoyed by a girl of the higher classes. And, if any lady lose her refinement as a result of hospital training, it is simply because her refinement is not, as it should be, an integral part of her character. I have had a varied experience in private nursing in every class of society, and I maintain that there is no private case that could not be better nursed by one who is a lady of thorough education than by the most promising type drawn from the uneducated classes. There are many reasons for this, the chief of which lies in the question of governing which is involved in all nursing. The nurse belonging to the so-called lower classes cannot govern. When her control is disputed she bullies and tyrannises, or else she meekly gives way; the instinct of her order asserts itself, and she does as she is told, to the detriment of the patient and the discredit of her profession. In private nursing, and in hospital too—except for the scrubbing of floors and walls—there is no work that is menial. Every piece of work and thought touching the care of the sick involves either art or science, and the highest type of practical nursing demands the best brain, the best general education, and the greatest number of accomplishments that a

woman may bring to the work. If a woman belonging to the lower classes feels that nursing is her vocation, let her by self-education, self-discipline, and self-denial fit herself for such a position, as do men whose ambition leads them to enter the learned professions. But do not let us establish for the noble profession of nursing a lower standard than we have for Medicine or Law, in order to include women who would be far more suitably occupied in domestic service. Miss Wortabet refers to the "monthly" nurse as a point in favour of her argument. Fortunately for the welfare of the race, the public is beginning to wake up to the fact that the ignorance of the average "monthly" nurse is a source of danger, and there are signs that before long she will be replaced by the fully-trained nurse who has specialised in maternity work.

It has been said that one derives from all the relations of life in proportion to one's education. It is equally true that so also one contributes quality in all the relations of life, and particularly is this so with regard to the work of nursing.—I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

MÉNA BELBY.

[The standard of education in this country for women of the domestic class, and even for daughters of poor professional men, has been miserably inefficient. In Scotland education is much more highly valued; thus Scotch women of every class have a better chance of success. Give the girls sound knowledge, and keep the nursing world the republic it is.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Charge Nurse.—A Pay Warrant issued in Army Orders states that the pay of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service shall be as follows:—

	Initial rate.	Annual increment.	Maximum.
Matron-in-Chief ...	£300	£10 0 0	£350
Principal Matron ...	175	10 0 0	205
Matron ...	75	10 0 0	150
Sister ...	50	5 0 0	65
Nurse ...	40	2 10 0	45

A Matron or Sister in charge of a hospital may be granted charge pay at a rate not exceeding £30 a year, according to the magnitude of her charge. During the absence on sick leave of a Matron or Sister who has been granted charge pay such pay may be drawn by the person actually in charge.

Mary.—We should advise you to write to the Matron of the St. Mary Abbott's (Kensington) Infirmary, Marloes Road, London, W., and the Matron of Fulham Union Infirmary, St. Dunstan's Road, Hammersmith. We think they would be most likely to be able to meet your wishes. We believe the examination of the London Obstetrical Society will shortly be discontinued, as that of the Central Midwives' Board, concerning which information can be obtained from the Secretary, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., is shortly to be inaugurated.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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