

I gather from Mr. Holland's evidence before the Select Committee that, after all the talk of reform in the Army Nursing Service, the intention of having a three years' standard can be evaded, and nurses appointed to the service even if they have spent some of the three years demanded in private nursing or office work; this seems very unsatisfactory. The sooner we get a three years' standard of training *in the wards* the better. At present the whole question of nursing education is a hopeless mess. I am glad to observe that the Lewisham Infirmary Board is not amongst those reactionary bodies busying themselves to prevent nursing organisation.

Yours,

A LADY GUARDIAN.

THE GRATITUDE OF PATIENTS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—My experience is, as hospital and private nurse, the poorer the patient the greater his gratitude. Rich patients seem to think that £2 2s. a week wipes out any obligations for services rendered.

Yours truly,
PRIVATE NURSE.

[This appears to us a sweeping assertion. Our experience is that the virtue of gratitude is equally distributed amongst all classes; it is a matter of temperament, and certainly not as common as it might be. We come into intimate relations with many private nurses, and it is gratifying to learn of the numerous acts of kindness from well-to-do patients towards those who have cared for them during sickness; but the nurse must herself have a sympathetic tendency.—Ed.]

INFALLIBILITY OUT OF DATE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read Miss Dock's excellent article "Who are Representative?" in your last issue with keen pleasure, but I should like to point out if I may that the statement that only one Matron of a London hospital is in favour of State Registration—which the opposition to the movement are so fond of making, and which, no doubt, has been made to Miss Dock—is hardly borne out by the facts of the case. By the London hospitals we may take that the opposition mean the twelve metropolitan hospitals with training-schools attached. Of these, the Matrons of St. Bartholomew's, Guy's and Charing Cross (all honour to them) are declared supporters of Registration; the Matrons of the London, St. Thomas's, King's, and Westminster are pronounced opponents; for the rest there are the Matrons of St. Mary's, St. George's, the Royal Free, Middlesex, and University College Hospitals, and it is impossible to say which view they take, for at various times they have supported societies pledged to support the movement and equally have declared their belief in its undesirability. Probably they do not themselves know on which side they will eventually be found. Time will prove, but I scarcely think either the promoters of Registration or the opposition will be wise to count on the permanency of their support.

But beyond the hospitals with medical schools we have the great Poor Law infirmaries, containing thousands of beds, among the Matrons of which can be numbered many supporters of Registration, and, if I remember rightly, the Matrons of every one of the infectious hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums

Board addressed a letter to their Board asking it to use its influence to further this reform. They also represent institutions containing some 5,000 beds, and the importance of their opinion cannot be discounted. It should be noted, also, that they deal largely with the finished products of the general training-schools, as all the Charge Nurses under the Board must hold a three years' certificate of training.

There are other London Matrons, of course, also, who are avowed supporters of the movement, and not a few Nicodemuses.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,

A WOMAN WITH A MEMORY.

[The assumption that the Matrons of the twelve London hospitals with medical schools attached have alone a right to form an opinion on nursing matters cannot be too determinedly disclaimed by certificated Matrons and nurses working in other positions—who have an equal individual responsibility to the community, if less powerful and well paid. This assumption of infallibility in these days is altogether absurd, especially as so many of these ladies have failed to act consistently during the Registration controversy.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Sister A., Dublin.—We are of opinion that Irish nurses should be registered by a Central Board, on which there would be Irish representatives. A National Board would not have the same prestige.

Lady G.—The girl you mention should apply to the Matron of the local hospital. Perhaps a class might be arranged to provide preliminary instruction in anatomy, physiology and hygiene, also in bandaging, &c. Even in London girls find difficulty in learning the elements of the theory of nursing. We must have central preliminary schools before long; the need for such instruction becomes more urgent every day.

Miss A. T., Birmingham.—Private nursing is becoming overstocked in London, and much of the work is done by semi-trained and uncertificated women. This, of course, is very unfair on those nurses who have conscientiously completed their arduous three years' training. We should not advise you to give up a good hospital post, unless money is very necessary. Write to the Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, London, S.W.

Miss G. Bovill.—There is a wide field for good work in our workhouses. Why not try and get the post of Matron in one of these institutions, if you do not really care for nursing the sick and are fond of household management?

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Report, 1903-04, is now ready. All those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure it from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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