

years private nursing, for a general rubbing up, and to obtain the advantages of lectures as well as seeing new methods. It is quite impossible for a nurse to keep up with the times even if she reads well, a thing which few busy nurses can do. If a nurse is fortunate enough to work for a specially clever doctor for some years, as I have been, he may be too busy to stay after an operation, or, indeed, in a serious case of any kind, and enter into minute instructions; therefore, the poor nurse that was once thought well of and up to date, gradually slips down, quite against her will, to the level of a "Sarah Gamp," because, as I have said, it is many years since she left hospital.

Nowhere in England is there a hospital where a trained nurse can go back for a course of post-graduate instruction.

Is it not time that someone woke up to the necessity of giving the poor earlier trained nurse, who is quite strong, and also quite willing to go back to a hospital and take the lowest place, the advantage of seeing new and present-day methods? In this way she would be enabled to work hand-in-hand with up-to-date doctors, instead of ending her nursing career as a mere

MRS. GAMP.

#### HOSPITAL PENSIONS FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I observe that Mr. Sydney Holland, in a recent communication to your columns explaining the financial condition of nurses at the London Hospital, states that after eighteen years' work for the institution (for the last six of which they will be receiving £55 per annum) they can retire with a full pay pension—presumably £55.

Suppose a woman enters the hospital service at the age of twenty-three, at forty-one years of age she will have more than £1 a week for life. This is a most generous provision for working women, and I hope nurses in great numbers will stay on the staff and earn it.

But the matter has another aspect. Where is all the capital coming from which the Committee of the hospital ought to see invested before this scheme can be considered financially sound? Otherwise the Committee is pledging future governors of the London to an enormous yearly outlay when in another decade these pensions begin to fall due. The annual upkeep of the hospital has now, quite justifiably, no doubt, reached nearly £90,000 a year, and the public generosity, great as it is, has not increased with the rapidity of the expenditure; imagine even 100 nurse pensioners on the list, and bang will go £5,500 a year, to say nothing of the present cut-throat industrial competition in the nursing world, which will probably have the economic effect of producing many more pensioners as time goes on. Perhaps the Committee thinks that the metropolitan hospitals will be on the rates before a not far distant day. Such finance will surely land them there unless the capital is laid down.

A HOSPITAL GOVERNOR.

#### THE "N" RAYS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In connection with your interesting remarks in a recent issue on Dr. Hooker's information concerning the "N" Rays, may I point out to those of your readers who would like to pursue this

fascinating subject further, that they may find enlightenment in reading Mrs. Besant's "Man and his Bodies," and Mr. Leadbeater's "Man Visible and Invisible." These are 1s. books, published by the Theosophical Publishing Society, 3, Langham Place. The study is one which, for nurses especially, holds vast potentialities.—I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

MÉNA BEILBY.

#### LIVE CATTLE IN BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

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

MADAM,—The Humanitarian League is renewing its protest against the disgusting custom, still prevalent in some districts at Christmas time, of displaying live cattle among the dead meat in butchers' shops. It would greatly tend towards the discontinuance of this practice, if humane persons who notice it would themselves remonstrate with the owners of the shops, either personally or by letter.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

### Comments and Replies.

*District Nurse.*—Messrs. Thomas Wallis and Co., Holborn Circus, E.C., provide all kinds of nursing and hospital requirements. Write for their illustrated catalogue, or, better still, pay a visit to the establishment in your off-duty time.

*Miss Green.*—We should certainly advise you to avail yourself of every opportunity for perfecting your knowledge of modern languages. Now that nurses go abroad so much, both as private nurses and to appointments in our colonies and foreign countries, a knowledge of French and German is frequently asked for, and may turn the scale in favour of a candidate for an appointment.

*Private Nurse.*—Many nurses who are working on their own account find that it is exceedingly difficult to obtain work this slack season. The small amount of work to be had, coupled with the fact that much of such nursing as there is, is in the hands of partially trained or untrained women, should cause nurses to realise the necessity for establishing some educational standard for their profession, with the subsequent registration of those who attain this standard. Only so can they secure good nursing for the public, and protect themselves from the competition of incompetent persons.

*Home Sister.*—You would find Miss L. L. Dock's "Materia Medica," published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., an excellent book for the purpose. The price is 3s. 6d.

### 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 Secretary, 431, Oxford 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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