

THE STANDING OF ARMY NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In studying the Blue Book of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nursing, there seems to be some confusion in the evidence regarding the standing of Army Nurses. I see Miss Huxley says, page 23, that unless a nurse has done three years in a hospital she is ineligible for "the Army and many other things," proving the injustice of sending nurses out private nursing in their third year.

But in reference to this question Mr. Holland, who is on the Army Nursing Board, on page 51 says: "Miss Huxley said on Tuesday that her nurses could not get into the Army because they had only had two years' training. That, at any rate, has been altered now, because the regulation for the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service is three years' training and service in a hospital."

Now can you explain what those statements mean? Have the new regulations depreciated the standard of the Army Sister? Is a nurse who has done two years in a hospital and one year's private nursing eligible? Miss Huxley says not. Mr. Holland implies yes. Does "service" mean that private nursing may be counted if the institution farms out the nurse, but does not count if after two years' training she works on her own account? If this is so, it is extremely unjust, and an incentive to hospitals to make money out of their pupil nurses. I have always been under the impression that the highest standard extant was necessary for the Army Nursing Service—that candidates must hold a certificate of three years' training in the wards. If this has been altered by "London" influence so as to make its private nurses eligible, it should be distinctly stated in the regulations, so that other nurses, such as those trained in the past at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, may know they are qualified. As an old Army Sister I am in favour of nothing less than a standard of certification after three years' training in the wards, and it is to be hoped that the Queen will insist upon this standard being necessary at an early date for Army Service.—Yours truly,

AN OLD ARMY SISTER.

[We have asked for information at Headquarters on this question.—Ed.]

POST-GRADUATE COURSE FOR NURSES.

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

MADAM,—In answer to "Private Nurse," will you allow me to say that I never suggested as a hope for the future that the trained nurse should return to hospital as a "pro."! She can do that now, if she likes, without any difficulty. What we want is a scheme whereby the nurse, who has had no opportunity of seeing improved methods of treatment, may acquire this knowledge in a reasonable way. The medical man can get post-graduate courses at hospitals. Why not the nurse? The midwife in Switzerland is obliged to have a "repetition course" every three years; why not in England? Of course, there will be many difficulties to overcome, but overcome they will be sooner or later. "Private Nurse" says that practical classes will keep a nurse who wishes to know "up-to-date." Where is a nurse to get such instruction? I am not aware of the existence of any such classes suitable for trained nurses and open to those from the provinces.

At this moment I know an experienced nurse who would be glad to get a little post-graduate training, and should be very much obliged for any information on the subject.—Yours faithfully,

E. E.

LOYALTY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I hope many of your readers will ponder the two parables written for their learning on the subject of loyalty in your last issue. We women have ourselves to blame for many of the indignities which are put upon us. So long as we subscribe to hospitals and institutions which exclude us from the management, and so from any voice in expending the funds which we supply, so long as we support nursing journals which are antagonistic to, and endeavour to ruin, our work for measures which we hold to be essential for the welfare of our profession, is it any wonder that we are not taken seriously, or that we pull down with one hand what we are building up with the other? If we would but be logical, and loyal to the principles in which we believe, and to those who have worked long and faithfully, and suffered much in their efforts to promote them, we should soon obtain the desire of our hearts; but so long as we coquette all round we can be neither feared, by our opponents nor respected, by our friends.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

PARTIZAN.

Comments and Replies.

Maternity Nurse.—The attention of a medical practitioner should be directed to any inability on the part of an infant to suck properly. It may be due to the fact that the child is tongue-tied, but this condition is not nearly so usual as is commonly supposed. A nurse should never presume to decide whether a child is tongue-tied or if operation is necessary. In the past monthly nurses and midwives have been far too ready both to decide upon the necessity for operation and to undertake its performance.

Private Nurse.—If you desire a flannelette you should certainly make a point of obtaining Horrockses'. They are to be had in every variety of colouring and design, are not more inflammable than ordinary longcloth, whereas many of the inferior qualities of flannelette are unsafe, because of their extremely inflammable nature, and many accidents and even loss of life have resulted from their use.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)