

prospects of illusive schemes suddenly jumped upon us. We know what we want. We must work till we get it.

Yours faithfully,  
HOSPITAL MATRON.

#### RIVAL OR COMRADE?

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

DEAR MADAM,—I agree with "An American Nurse in London" that good fellowship, not rivalry, should be the key note of the relations between medical practitioners and nurses, and I believe this represents the true facts of the case, even in this country, to a greater extent than is realised. Most medical practitioners, if questioned, would give generous acknowledgment of the assistance which nurses afford to them in their work, and many nurses could tell of much appreciation expressed by medical men. Why not? Let us put it quite frankly—a good nurse is simply invaluable to a doctor, whether surgeon or physician, in a serious case. The patient requires continuous skilled attention. Who is to give it? The doctor? He has other cases on his hands; besides, his time is worth many golden guineas in the course of the day, and no one but a millionaire could afford to make it worth his while to give constant attention for a period of any duration. The trained nurse, on the other hand, at a fee of two or three guineas, comes into the house with her special knowledge, and the doctor, more especially if he has had previous experience of her work, goes off to other cases with a sense of relief, knowing that his directions will be faithfully carried out, that an experienced observer is with the patient, and should any untoward symptoms occur he will be at once informed. Why should not the doctor appreciate the work of nurses when they are able to render him such assistance? The nurse, on the other hand, has no desire to exceed the limits of her own work. These are well defined, and even did not a sense of belief in, and loyalty to her chief—usually very strong in nurses—keep her from encroaching on his province, her pride in her own profession will do so. For a nurse is proud of her profession. The greater her skill, the greater her pride in it. Her ambition is not to be a pseudo-doctor, but to be a first-rate nurse. She has no desire to assume responsibilities which are not her own, for her own amply suffice her. The mistake so often made seems to me to be that the nurse is regarded as if she were a lower grade doctor, whereas her work, which is intimately associated with his it is true, deals with precisely that part of attendance on the patient which his does not touch, and for which, furthermore, he has had no training. Why should there be any question of rivalry? Each has need of each. The nurse is helpless without the doctor to direct the treatment. The doctor, shall we say it? is practically helpless without the nurse, for his best and most careful work may be ruined if the patient is not carefully nursed between his visits. Just imagine, if all the nurses in the country went on strike together! Not only the public but the medical profession would be in sore straits, and the inevitable blackleg would be worth her weight in gold. She could ask what fees she liked, and get them. I think, therefore, any idea of possible rivalry should at once and for all be dropped.

The person who is apt to question the doctor's wisdom, and to ape his duties, is the woman who with

a smattering of nursing acts as a nurse, and seems to think that she can conceal her dense ignorance and inspire confidence in herself by criticising the doctor, and his work. When we get Registration of trained nurses, we nurses will no longer have to bear the brunt of the mischief caused in this way, which is one of many reasons why we hope that the Bill will soon become law.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
TWENTY YEARS A NURSE.

#### Comments and Replies.

*Miss G. T., Hampstead.*—Write to Miss Mary Byham, secretary of the Homes for Ladies, at 27, Grange Park, Ealing, and Holmwood, Hanwell. The fees are moderate.

*Maternity Nurse.*—A lusty cry at the time of birth is a sign of health in an infant, and the effort results in the expansion of the lungs and the satisfactory establishment of respiration. If respiration is not well established, a medical practitioner should be at once informed. The management of incubators is a very important matter. The life of a delicate infant may be saved if recourse is had to incubation in time; but the management both of the incubator and of the infant must be in skilled hands, or the treatment may be worse than useless.

*Gem, Hong Kong.*—Perhaps the Epileptic Colony, Chalfont St. Peters, might meet the need. It is in connection with the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, and has homes for boys over fourteen. Application should be made to the Secretary.

*Private Nurse.*—The Cremation Act came into force in 1903. Under its provisions a statutory declaration in support of the application for cremation is necessary, which occasions considerable inconvenience and expense, while it does not appear to be of advantage as a safeguard against possible crime. There are facilities for cremation at Woking Cemetery, also at Golder's Hill Crematorium. Birmingham has its crematorium at Perry Barr.

#### Notices.

##### THE SOCIETY FOR 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.

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.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses 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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