

give the nursing profession the money it needs for educational endowments. If they choose to make over such gifts to nursing societies to carry out educational purposes, well and good. But let nurses beware of placing themselves professionally and personally under the control of unprofessional persons. They cannot do so without a corresponding loss of liberty, and their standards will be defined not by professional authorities, but by those persons who hold the money bags.

In my opinion the position of trained nurses, who have made a most courageous fight for their liberties, is a very perilous one until they have the solid basis of the Parliamentary franchise to depend upon. Until then they are liable to lose any position which at pain and peril they have won. That is all the more reason why we women should stand by one another when the need arises, and I rejoice that the Irish Women Suffragists are standing by the nurses at this crisis and have sent up a Resolution to the Board of Trade in support of the nurses' protests. I have not heard whether English Suffrage Societies have taken the same course, but I hope so.—Yours obediently,  
AN IRISH WOMAN SUFFRAGIST.

#### PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The question of economy in hospital administration is one which has been much before the public of late. May I put in a word on this subject from the point of view of a trained nurse?

It must strike any thoughtful person in a hospital that the majority of nurses appear to know very little of the cost of living and the price of medical stores. In a well-managed private house economy in the use of gas, electric light, coal, clean linen, and many other necessary articles is regulated and controlled (with, of course, due regard to efficiency) with a careful hand. In a hospital, who thinks of the price of coal per ton, or of electric light per unit? How many nurses even know it?

Again, the ward cupboards are always well stocked, the linen shelves filled, and the crockery and other stores which are broken in the course of a month made up. Is it always necessary that there should be clean sheets all round the ward three times a week? Could not a thoughtful nurse even then refrain from putting a clean top sheet on to the bed of the patient who is going out in the course of the day? Then, again, does the nurse know the cost of washing bed linen, or of the cotton-wool, lint, jaconet, and other stores which she uses with a lavishness unknown in a private house? By all means let us take a pride in the smartness and dainty cleanliness of the wards for which we are responsible, but cleanliness and unnecessary lavishness are two different things, and the right use of stores is not synonymous with waste. Who is to blame when these things occur in an institution for which the authorities are making despairing appeals, and announcing that unless they obtain more support, beds will have to be closed? "Why, the nurse," you say. Yes, the nurse, for she is entrusted with the use of hospital property, and it behoves her to find out, if she does not know, something of its cost, and of the best methods of economical use. But is the nurse solely or even primarily to blame? I think not, for the hospital authorities are the responsible custodians of these things, and

it behoves them to see that those they employ are acquainted with their value. Do they? For myself, I can say that, throughout a three years' training, the subject of economy, or the need for it, was never so much as mentioned to me, that I discovered the relative cost of brown, absorbent, iodoform, and other wools and lints "off my own bat," and that I based my estimate of the laundry bill upon that of an ordinary household. Why should not probationers be taught these things systematically and thoroughly? If they knew that the piece of lint which they tear off a roll for cleaning purposes would cost them sixpence if they went into a shop to buy it, the more conscientious would restrain their hands, and the others should be made to do so. A course of domestic economy should be included in the curriculum of all probationers.—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,  
HOUSEWIFE.

#### Comments and Replies.

*Provincial Matron.*—There is no necessity, in inaugurating a League of Nurses, to start a magazine unless you wish to do so. It is entirely a question for the League to decide.

*Miss K. H. Ashe.*—We were much amused with the address of the letter.

*Private Nurse.*—The Wynberg Regatta, supplied by Mr. Christopher Williamson, of 91, Edgware Road, London, W., may be relied upon for hard wear. The cost is 9½d. per yard. It is useful for uniform dresses, also for knickerbockers, &c.

*Provincial Sister.*—You would find photography a very pleasant hobby, but it needs patience and painstaking if the work produced is to be of a high order. You would find Wellcome's Photographic Exposure Record and Diary very useful to you. It contains much excellent information. The cost is 1s. 6d. or 1s., according to binding, and it may be obtained of photographic chemists and dealers, or at railway and other bookstalls. If there is any difficulty in obtaining it, Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. will post copies on receipt of remittance.

#### 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 iii. of Cover, 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 a 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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)