

in this curriculum surely the laws of health will have a first place, so that the nurses of the future will learn to regard the maintenance of sound health as even more important than the restoration of those whose health has become impaired. If our perspective is true, we shall know that a healthy body is far more beautiful than the most interesting deviation from the normal, and we shall consider all time well spent which is devoted to helping to keep the community in a sound and healthy condition.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,

A LOVER OF BEAUTY.

#### NURSING HOMES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The evidence recently given before the Committee of the House of Commons exposed certain abuses in the nursing profession that must have caused surprise to a large section of the public.

One of the witnesses, an honoured member of the profession, stated as a typical instance of the abuse of the nurse's uniform that a patient in a certain nursing institution found that her "nurse" was the parlourmaid of the day before, and added that such establishments wherein a quick transformation from a domestic servant to a "nurse" is effected are to be found "scattered up and down the country." This is indeed true, and the allegation is not less applicable here in the parish of Marylebone, and within a mile of Harley Street. To some this last statement may appear an exaggeration; not so, however, to many old inhabitants of this parish, to whom long residence has given opportunities of becoming familiar with practices bringing discredit on the nursing profession.

It would be easy to name certain nursing homes of which the Lady Superintendents have never received any hospital training, and who employ as "nurses" unqualified women—indeed, there still exist in the parish questionable institutions in which the "nurses" are the domestic servants. This is not all: in some of these homes infectious cases have been admitted, and this has become known, notwithstanding the efforts of the proprietresses for the concealment of this information. As was well said by one of your medical contemporaries some time ago, there is amongst servants a kind of "back-stairs masonry," by means of which details of, and events in, the domestic economy of a house become known to neighbours, however unwilling the latter may be to lend an ear to reports of such a nature.

It would be well for the interests of an honoured profession if there were a Borough Council inspection of nursing homes generally, and particularly of the questionable and superfluous ones. To what straits the last-mentioned institutions are reduced for the efficacious disposal of their hospital refuse is known to those inhabitants who, to their unfeigned regret, happen to be the neighbours of nursing homes that were once private residences; and it may reasonably be asked how such premises can, from a sanitary standpoint, be suddenly adapted to the needs of a so-called nursing institution. It sometimes occurs that such a house is leased ostensibly as a private house; but ere long the incoming tenant surreptitiously converts the premises into a nursing home, thus leaving the neighbouring private inhabitants to discover the fact when the entry and exit of patients are noticed,

surgical operations unwillingly witnessed, and straw is placed in the street.

To some people the nursing home nuisance may not appear germane to the question of the abuse of a nurse's uniform, yet in a district like Marylebone the one is intimately connected with the other.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

"BEAUMONT STREET."

#### Comments and Replies.

*Charge Nurse.*—You would find Devonshire and Cornwall delightful counties in which to spend a summer holiday, and you could arrange one very reasonably. Another charming holiday can be arranged in the Channel Islands, with Jersey or Guernsey for headquarters. Sark is a dream of beauty which few who have seen it will ever forget. Living and lodgings are both most reasonable.

*Provincial Matron.*—The Nurses' Registration Bill, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Munro Ferguson, can be obtained either directly, or through any bookseller, from Wyman and Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; from Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

*Nurse Barker.*—Humanised Milk may be obtained from Welford and Sons' Dairy Company, Ltd., of which the chief offices are at Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, W. This firm also keeps a herd of milch asses, and asses' milk can be delivered to any part of the kingdom.

*Probationer.*—We recommend you to keep throughout your training a note book in which to jot down information which you have acquired during the course of the day, and notes of any interesting or unusual cases which you may nurse. You will find the book of much interest and use to you subsequently.

#### 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, 1d. 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](#)