

her a bankrupt. Again, if an injured employer had to depend on the damages he could get out of a nurse I should be sorry for him, for many nurses, although they may be taking good fees, have, to my personal knowledge, often scarcely a £5 note between them and penury. If they earn well they spend as freely—up to the hilt, in fact. If the public wish to get satisfaction for injuries done to them, they had better see to it that the institution, not the nurse, is held responsible. Why otherwise should it take any special pains or feel any responsibility in the selection of its staff?

I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

A COMMON SENSE NURSE.

[Another letter on this subject is unavoidably held over.—ED.]

RE RURAL DISTRICT NURSING.

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

MADAM,—I have just taken a post in the country where there is no doctor, the parish and club doctor being in the next village five and a-half miles off. Since my arrival—i.e., in the course of four weeks—I have had apart from "cut fingers," "bad legs," and "constipations," the following cases:—

One phlebitis (supposed varicose veins).

One apoplectic stroke, followed by death.

One abortion with fibroid tumour, necessitating immediate curetting.

One case of double pneumonia, complicated with whooping cough and gastritis, temperature 105.

One case of syphilitic ophthalmia, child aged ten.

One accident case with hemorrhage from the temporal artery, which was severed in two different places, ear and nose bleeding, so that I hardly knew where to start arresting the hæmorrhage, this was followed by delirium tremens. One case of hysterectomy, for whom I had to find a bed in a London hospital, thus requiring correspondence with doctors and secretaries, and three-mile walks to the patient's house to make arrangements about the mode and time of sending off the patient, as I was obviously too busy to accompany her myself, especially as I was booked for three maternity cases which were expected every minute.

This is an experience which has made me ponder and think. Is this responsible post suitable for a rural nurse? And yet, so far, it has only been filled by one that class. The last two having been sent away, the first for immorality and drink, and the second for quarrelling and gossiping; so that the cottagers themselves refused to have her.

The salary which the limited and by no means opulent gentry of the village can afford is only that of a rural nurse.

I now see Mrs. Hobhouse's side of the question and that of the members of the Select Committee, but—I cannot flinch from my attitude—there can only be but one kind of nurse that ought to be offered to the public, whether rich or poor, and that is the *trained nurse*; and though I think it is a very poor reason for refusing us State Registration (for we prevent no one from nursing), yet how are these rural districts to be provided with fully-trained nurses, with a knowledge of midwifery, at starvation salaries? Why should the County Council not provide parish nurses on the same principle as parish doctors?

Yours faithfully,

EXCELSIOR.

Comments and Replies.

Miss M. Turner.—The duties of a private nurse are often very responsible, and this branch of nursing demands the fully trained, not those with "some hospital experience," who think that, having failed to complete their hospital training, they may succeed as private nurses. The personality of the nurse who undertakes this branch also counts for much, and she should possess the power of adaptability to the circumstances of the various houses in which she finds herself, if she is to succeed. A successful private nurse soon makes her own *clientèle*.

Assistant Nurse.—We should advise you to obtain "Practical Nursing," by Miss Isla Stewart and Dr. Herbert Cuff, published by William Black and Sons; also "Nursing, its Principles and Practice," by Miss Isabel Hampton (Mrs. Hampton Robb); you will find both books most useful.

Nurse Phillips.—The beaten-up white of an egg is sometimes ordered to allay sickness. Presumably it acts as a coating to the sensitive lining of the stomach and thus lessens the tendency to vomit caused by its irritable condition in certain diseased conditions.

Enquirer.—You will find the information you desire in the *Nursing Directory*, published at 11, Adam Street, Strand (price 5s.). The conditions under which the principal training-schools receive probationers are given therein in detail.

Miss E. H. K., Bath.—No trained nurse now working who can bring good credentials need have fear that she will not receive due consideration under any Registration Act which may be passed. Acts of Parliament are not retrospective, and vested interests are always safeguarded.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole 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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