

say much, but a few words from a British Matron in Australia may not be out of place, in common justice to the excellent and conscientious women who labour most faithfully in our hospitals and as private nurses, also that our first-class training schools, with their high practical and ethical standards of training, may not be lowered in the eyes of our English and American sisters. Many of our nurses are ladies, well-educated and from refined homes, these are in the minority, but some who are not of this class are splendid nurses, scrupulously conscientious, and need not leave their own country, for our best nurses always get plenty to do. The best English nurses do not go abroad either, to seek work for the same reason.

I can count on the fingers of one hand the good nurses I know in South Africa from this State, and, indeed, a good many have done well for Australia in leaving it, as some had won unenviable notoriety, and in our nursing community would not be welcomed back. But might not the same be said of a great many English nurses who had to be deported to England for misconduct at the time of the war? In every profession there are numbers of black sheep, but—as the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING so often fights bravely for the nursing profession as a whole, tells us—it is not by the few who make themselves objectionably notorious that the rest should be judged. Every now and then (like Lady Priestly, for instance) an onslaught is made on nurses generally for the faults of a few, but when one of ourselves (for I believe Miss H. Kenealy is a Bart.'s nurse) makes a set on a country and a class of people with whose environment she is unacquainted, this is letting her sympathies run away with commonsense. It is certainly not British justice. Now, most of our nurses are not used to roughing it, though in numbers of good, refined homes you will occasionally find them without a servant of any kind; nevertheless there is no "roughness," everything is orderly and well done. Because a maid for some reason is unattainable, that is no reason why the ladies of the house should be helpless. They are generally women of resource, not liking vicissitudes, but capable of coping with them till they pass. Now nurses who, ignoring strong Press advice, and who have placed themselves in the condition described by Miss Kenealy, have burnt their boats! Why, like many another Britisher, do they not then show the good stuff they are made of, face their difficulties bravely, show themselves resourceful, and outdo the hateful Australian. This would be far better, and reflect more credit on the English nurse than looking back on the fleshpots they have, probably for ever, left behind them, instead of looking contemptuously on a woman who can help herself.

M. D. FARQUHARSON,

Matron Bendigo Hospital, Victoria, Australia.

[Miss Kenealy, who wrote an article in our issue of December 30th on "Private Nursing in South Africa," had great opportunities for observation there, as she held important hospital appointments in several Colonies before the war, and worked there altogether for eight years, including her experience in connection with the Army Reserve. Her remarks were not a criticism on Australian nurses, but a review of the situation as she knew it in South Africa.—Ed.]

#### A CORRECTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I ask space for a correction. In line 10 page 170, by a slip of the pen, "sulphate of magnesia" is given. This should read "mist. mag. sulph.," a very different matter.

I am, yours faithfully,

A. LUCY.

### Comments and Replies.

In the notice in our columns last week of the Nurses' Social Union, we regret that the name of Miss Eden, at whose house the third meeting was held, should, through a printer's error, have been printed as Evans. Miss Eden, who is the Central Secretary, is one of the warmest supporters of the Union, and much of its success is due to her work.

*Mrs. Taylor.*—The founder of the International Red Cross Movement was Mr. Henri Dunant, who was born at Geneva in 1828. The first International Red Cross Conference was held at Geneva in 1863 when the Governments of many European countries were represented, and a basis of organisation adopted as well as the distinctive badge of the Red Cross on a white ground. A year later the "Geneva Convention" was adopted, and to-day, with the exception of Morocco and Brazil, all civilised States are parties to this treaty.

*Assistant Nurse.*—Antitoxin is usually administered into the tissues of the back, buttocks or thigh, between the shoulder blades, or in the buttocks being usually the place selected. The efficiency of the injection is aided by rubbing and kneading the adjacent parts.

*Returned Traveller.*—You would find that to oil all woodwork periodically with paraffin oil about once a week, is not only a preservative of the wood, but also assists greatly in keeping down the ants which are often so troublesome in hot countries. It is well to remember that special activity on the part of ants generally means a dirty corner somewhere.

### Notices.

#### THE SOCIETY FOR THE 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 advt. page iv., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

#### 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.

#### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)