

PARTIALLY TRAINED NURSES FOR THE POOR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The point which has very forcibly been brought out in your columns in the correspondence on the Cottage Nurses' Training Home at Govan is that the aristocracy, and apparently some members of the medical profession also, consider that a six to nine months' course in a cottage hospital, and in the homes of the poor, which course includes maternity training, amply suffices to train women to nurse every kind of serious illness. If that is so, then why, in the name of common sense, are we kept in hospital for three or four years while we are training? Is it to provide cheap labour for the hospitals or why? The next time a ducal appendix has to be removed, or a countess requires a critical operation, why should not a woman who has had say six months' experience in a hospital be selected to nurse the case, and so begin to earn her living instead of expending time and strength on useless training? Nurses who are efficient to care for the poor when "seriously" ill must be efficient for the rich also, for the diseases of rich and poor are the same. Or are we to understand that a nurse who is not considered sufficiently experienced to nurse the rich is good enough for the poor?

Whatever the standard of efficiency decided upon for a trained nurse, in my opinion it should be the same for the nurses of all classes, and I am glad that the Govan Medical Association holds this view. After all, the question in a nutshell is in the hands of the medical profession, if medical practitioners refused to recognise partially trained women as trained nurses they would have no *locus standi*.

Yours faithfully,

COMMON SENSE.

[As several important letters on this subject have come to hand they will appear next week, after which the correspondence will cease, as letters dealing with other matters of importance have been crowded out.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Army Nurse.—All candidates for the Q.A.I.M.N.S. must go through a six-months' probation at Netley Hospital before being sent to responsible posts. We like your patriotic spirit and quite agree that "well-trained nurses should make an effort to give a few years of service to our sick soldiers." After which, if they take up other branches of work, such nurses would form an efficient reserve.

Provincial Matron.—The next International Nursing Conference will be held in 1909. The place and date will be announced in this Journal.

Certificated Nurse.—You are not well equipped for private nursing if you have only had medical and surgical training, though you have the indispensable foundation. You should endeavour to

obtain experience in at least one special branch, such as mental nursing, massage, maternity, or infectious nursing.

Important Notice.

TO MATRONS AND TRAINED NURSES.

An Emergency Meeting is hereby called by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland to Protest against the action of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board in their attempt to degrade the Matrons of the hospitals under their jurisdiction from first-class to second-class officers.

The meeting will be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Saturday, the 19th inst., at 4 p.m., Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair. All Matrons and Trained Nurses who sympathise with their colleagues at this crisis are cordially invited to be present.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. 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 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 xii.

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