

GOVAN COTTAGE NURSES' TRAINING HOME.
To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

MADAM,—I do not wish you to further prolong the correspondence on this subject, but the letter from Dr. Geo. Hunter, coming after the statement of the Secretary of the Govan Medical Association, that the members of that Association were unanimous in their attitude towards the Govan Cottage Nurses' Training Home, will probably be a surprise to your readers, and therefore demands an explanation. Although Dr. Hunter has been a member of the Govan Medical Association for two years, during the most of which time the dispute with the Executive Committee of the Training Home has been going on, up till September 5th he had never attended any of the meetings of the Association or given the Association the benefit of his opinion on the matter. On that date there was under consideration a letter from the Association to the *British Medical Journal* on the subject. Dr. Hunter informed the Association that he had recently been having an interview with Her Grace the Duchess of Montrose, and proposed delaying the publication of the letter, as he had grounds for believing that the Executive Committee intended instituting reforms in the working of the Home. The Association, however, decided to proceed with the correspondence against the Home. Dr. Hunter has, until recently, been physician to the Elder Cottage Hospital, where some of the pupils of the Cottage Nurses' Training Home put in four months of their training, so that he can hardly be looked upon as a disinterested party, and his opinion may be read in that light.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

WM. ALLAN,

President, Govan Medical Association.
 Govandale, Govan.

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

MADAM,—Before you close this correspondence permit me to make a few remarks in reply to Miss Balfour's letter in your issue of 10th October.

Miss Balfour asks on what ground I make the assertion that fully-trained nurses would perform much more efficiently all the duties now performed by the partially-trained nurses, including living in the patients' cottages, and doing domestic work therein.

In Govan we have fully-trained Queen Victoria Jubilee nurses working alongside these partially-trained nurses, and performing exactly the same duties. In the case of the Jubilee nurses, however, the duties are performed "much more efficiently," less ostentatiously, and without any friction with the doctors. Let a sufficient number of fully-trained Jubilee nurses be employed so as to enable them to afford the time, and I have reason for asserting that they would even reside in their patients' houses, provided the circumstances rendered that possible and desirable. While on this point let me protest against Miss Balfour's reading of my remarks as an insinuation against the respectability of her partially-trained nurses, and of the families in whose houses they are supposed to reside. I take for

granted that Miss Balfour does not ask her partially-trained nurses to live in houses under any other conditions than those I have demanded for fully-trained nurses. Everyone who has travelled in the Highlands and Islands and other districts of Scotland, country and town, knows that many of the inhabitants of these parts dwell in hovels where it would be impossible for a stranger to reside with any observance of the decencies of life. These are the houses which I referred to as unfit for fully-trained nurses to reside in, and surely Miss Balfour does not desire her partially-trained nurses to sacrifice their respectability and dwell therein either. It is these poor people's misfortune rather than their fault that they have to live under such conditions, and it can be no insinuation against their respectability to mention the truth about them.

The work of the Queen's Jubilee nurses among the poor peasants in the West of Ireland, described in a former issue of your journal, is a good example of what can be done by fully-trained nurses among the very poor in country districts, and proves my contention.

As to whether the greater part of my letter of 5th October was directed against what Miss Balfour did say, or as she asserts, against what I imagined she said, I am quite content to leave it to your readers to judge.

In characterising the doctrine laid down in the last sentence of my letter as Socialism, Miss Balfour is only following the custom adopted nowadays in certain quarters, of calling unpalatable truths which touch the conscience by that name. But even Socialism embraces doctrines which are true and worthy of acceptance by others than those calling themselves Socialists. The doctrine referred to may be Socialism, but it is also common equity and humanity. If the holding of such views constitutes one a Socialist, then I have no objection to the name.

I did not insinuate, as Miss Balfour accuses me, that "medical men are sycophants in relation to the 'important personages' in their districts." I admit that in the medical profession there may unfortunately be some who could quite appropriately be so termed, but I do not admit that everyone who comes across an evil, and does not publicly raise his voice against it, especially if by so doing he will injure himself, is a sycophant. No defence against my remarks is therefore called for from medical men in country districts.—I am, Madam, yours, etc.,

FORBES BROWN, M.B.

Govan Medical Association.

[As a very liberal amount of space has been devoted to this correspondence it will now cease. The dispute between the medical men in Govan and the Executive Committee of the Home is at present under consideration by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the British Medical Association, who will give a decision in due course on the points at issue. The duty of the nursing profession to the sick poor in their own homes does not, however, end here, it should be its aim to do all in its power to establish an efficient nursing standard for all trained nurses—and to bring such efficient nursing

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