

chalk tooth-powder is very cheap, and might just as well be supplied from the dispensary to the wards as are all the thousand and one drugs, dressings, and drinks—many of them very costly—which have only to be requisitioned to be supplied. Our staff nurse buys brass polish to beautify the ward, but I have been forbidden to give tooth-powder to healthify the patients.

A PAYING PRO.

THE PLACE OF TRAINED NURSING IN PRISONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I do hope you will address at length another meeting on the question of "Trained Nursing in Prisons." I feel sure I speak for all present at the Matrons' Council Conference, when I say we all found the question of absorbing interest. Women, trained not only in sick nursing but to understand sick minds, are, I gathered, what we most urgently need in the care and treatment of prisoners. The nurse who suffered from the lack of it whilst in prison for non-payment of rates, and who placed her trained observations at our disposal through the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, has set afoot reforms which may have far-reaching influence for good. I do hope we nurses shall do what we can to help.

Yours very truly,

G. E. S.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a guest of the Matrons' Council last Friday I was deeply interested in your paper on "Nursing in Prisons," and regret, as you did, we had not much more time to discuss this question, which appears to me to touch on great sociological reforms. I only wish the Prison Commissioners had been present. Alas! all are men who never realise these details. I wanted to speak, as in my bag the following cutting from the *Daily Mail* was burning a hole:—

"RAYNER'S NEW SENTENCE.—Horace Rayner, Mr. Whiteley's murderer, commenced yesterday morning his twenty days' solitary confinement, to which he was sentenced by the visiting justices on Wednesday for attempting suicide.

"For the first nine days he will be kept on No. 1 Diet—namely, bread and water. Save for a brief interval daily for exercise, he will be kept closely quartered in his cell. During each night he will be visited at intervals by the patrolling warder."

And not one word of commiseration to reach the thousands of readers. Shades of Elizabeth Fry! Is it possible that after her grave has been closed for sixty years, men, in the name of Justice, are still driving their fellow men insane by solitary confinement, starvation, and espionage? What torture! Is this the treatment a trained healer of bodies and souls would measure out to a human being so broken that death seems his only solace? Certainly not. It is to be hoped that the Home Secretary—known to be a very humane man—will at once order this victim off the rack—if he has not already done so.

Yours truly,

ONE OF THE PUBLIC.

[The paper referred to, touching as it did on the probability that in the study of psychology will be found the key to the riddle of crime—and through its application the prevention of violation of moral law—has brought us many letters. It is just here intelligent trained women's work is needed.—"G. E. S." is thanked for her generous offer of personal service, but our prisons have been practically closed to the public for nearly 30 years, and can only be visited by special permission from the Home Office. Every day, no matter where one turns, it is the omission of mother influence in politics, and through lack of political power, of effective influence in social conditions, which we find responsible for the greater part of human misery. Many incipient Elizabeth Frys may have come and gone in the past sixty years, but their genius has been wasted, and we still wreck vengeance on prisoners. Imagine if the followers of that noble woman had been given the same scope for reform in their own work as have the followers of Florence Nightingale in theirs—the mother spirit would have brought the same relief to the prisoner as it has to the patient.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Superintendent.—There is already such a society—the Penal Reform League—the general object of which is "to help to create and foster a more healthy and reasonable public opinion and feeling with regard to crime, and to advocate the principle that the treatment of criminals should be entirely curative." Write to the Hon. Secretary, Captain Arthur J. St. John, 7, Holly Village, Highgate, London, N.

"Trunda."—Write direct to Sir William P. Treloar, Grangemount, Upper Norwood, S.E. The work at Alton will appeal to many nurses who really love children.

Cottage Hospital Matron.—We do not consider that the hospital authorities or the medical staff have a right, without the consent of a patient's relatives, to make an autopsy on the body of a person who has died in the institution. The poor have a great horror of the mutilation of a corpse. They often pay most devoted respect to their dead.

Nurse Horrabridge.—See rules for Prize Puzzles Competition. Single coupons should not be forwarded.

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.

PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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