

A CONVICT PRISON IN JAPAN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Charities and the Commons is devoting space week by week to arouse the public conscience and common sense on the management of prisoners. It reports this week that a member of the Salvation Army, Commissioner A. M. Nicol, has inspected the convict prison at Sagamo, Tokyo, which has lately been erected at an enormous expense. According to his report it is a prison thoroughly equipped in every department. Commissioner Nicol says:—

"Two things soon became apparent—namely, that the system is organised on the principle of reforming the individual, as distinct from his pure conviction; and that this is sought to be accomplished by systematically instilling into his mind moral principles and equipping him with the practical knowledge of some industry by which he can earn an honest livelihood. The officers, from the governor down, are selected and trained to some extent accordingly. The one idea that a prisoner had to be caged and treated as a wild hyena is as dead as the feudal system, as far as Japan is concerned. They have no use for a system based on such a conception of the unruly members of society. Legislation, education, and government administration have for years now been permeated with the philosophy that crime is a disease, and ought to be diagnosed and treated much in the same way as small-pox or lunacy."

Are we white people too prejudiced to learn something of moral, as well as military, law from the yellow man? When is the Matrons' Council going to use its influence to have your suggestions for trained nursing in prisons agitated? Surely we women could arouse interest and have a trial made at our own prison at Holloway.

A SLUM WORKER.

[Until nursing is organised by State Registration it appears that all the time of the public-spirited members of the profession is fully occupied in preventing demoralising legislation, with its resulting spoilation of trained nurses, a frightful and quite unnecessary waste of energy. We should like to see a woman appointed Governor of Holloway Prison.—ED.]

NEW BLOOD IN NURSING SCHOOLS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Country hospitals certainly score over the big London nursing schools in one particular—they get more new blood, and the atmosphere is not so stagnant. I have worked in both and heartily agree with the suggestion that nurses need a change of work, environment, and country if possible, before settling down to work for years in their own school. I was trained in a London school, left, travelled in many countries, and saw life generally. Some years later, upon returning to London, I reported to the Matron, and went the rounds of the wards I had worked in. Everything was exactly the same excepting that some nurses I had known were promoted to be sisters,

and the senior physicians and surgeons looked rounder and more prosperous. Everyone was perfectly satisfied with things as they had been, and would for ever be. Rip van Winkle would have been in his element, even after a century of sleep. I thought of a St. Thomas's nurse I knew who had "never heard of registration," though the windows of her ward looked on the House of Commons, where, for two sessions, the question was considered by a Select Committee, and of the sister in another London Hospital who had never heard of a "Queen's Nurse"! In a groove one must become narrow, and nurses, of all women, should have the widest views of life and humanity.

Yours,

C. S. T.

Comments and Replies.

To a Member of the Matrons' Council.—The paragraphs to which you allude were cribbed from this Journal—your official organ—as usual without acknowledgment. We are informed by the Hon. Secretary they were not sent direct, as the lady to whom they allude strongly objects to advertisement in the class of journal in which they appeared.

Correspondent, Enniskillen.—Write to Miss Wald, Head of the Nurses' Settlement, 265, Henry Street, New York. The Settlement is the centre of visiting nursing among the poor, and much other useful social work.

Secretary.—The "Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities" is what you require. It is issued by Messrs. Longman and Co. The book deals with over a thousand Metropolitan charitable institutions.

Notices.

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.

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.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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