

needing sympathy and great tact. There are times when the work is overwhelming and the nurse would fain give up, but she has been taught during a valuable training the spirit of perseverance, now it stands her in good stead, and even such articles as have lately appeared in print against the work, fail to discourage her, because in her mind is the thought of dear little dirty mites, once very bad cases, who are now kept permanently clean and wholesome, and love to be seen and praised by nurse.

We hope that the cloud is only a small one, and will soon pass, trusting that out of evil may come much that is good. In the meantime we will con an excellent little verse which appeared recently in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING:—

“The inner side of every cloud is bright and shining;

I therefore turn my clouds about,
And always wear them inside out,
To show the lining.”

SCHOOL NURSE, L.C.C.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see that one of your numerous readers had come to the fore on behalf of the small army of London County Council School Nurses in a criticism, which appeared in your issue of last week, on a gratuitous attack upon their work. May I also be granted a little space in your paper? I was surprised to see that there was a further article in the *Westminster Gazette* by a medical man; it was not a defence—nor a reply—it was merely a corroboration of the former article; it was easy to see that the writer knew little of the practical side of his subject. His experience of nurses generally must be small; is his practice in such a healthy neighbourhood that he has not met any? At most, I fear he has not had the support and skilled aid he has expected from the nurses who have come under his ken.

The only comfort we have, or can have, from the two articles is: that they are another instance showing the great need there is for State Registration so that the nurse may be “known to those who meet her,” and no longer be classed as “semi-educated” or “un-trained.” To anyone who gives serious thought to the matter, it is surely apparent that no nurse could “pursue her ghastly work” without very thorough training and practical knowledge of children’s ailments, and of what is more essential still for the children with whom the School-Nurse comes in contact, the intense necessity for the more thorough observance of personal cleanliness.

How many medical men (even with their “adequate remuneration”) would care to undertake the work that is done by these “semi-educated, half-trained women”? Would many, think you, care to “rake the hair” (the phrase is not mine) of one poor little waif, much less of seventy? I think not.

Did the “Registered Teacher” know anything of nursing matters at all—he would be aware that one of the first principles that is taught to a raw probationer is:—“Never to place steel instruments

in perchloride of mercury.” The School Nurses dip their combs, their steel, or their glass, rods, which they use to part, not to rake, the child’s hair in a disinfecting solution of cyllin or lysol. They are accused of carrying infection from one school to another! What about their own clothing and persons? Surely the “Registered Teacher” did not stop to think when he finished up his “presentation of facts.” Does he not know that the object of each of these hard-working nurses, whom he maligns so sweepingly, is to free the children from the piteous result of their parents’ neglect—not to increase the unclean condition?

As for the school where the “gruesome occurrence” happened, it is to be hoped that it is long since destroyed.

Are there as many cases of favus in the special schools set apart for those suffering from the complaint as are set forth as occurring in this one East End school? I do not think it possible.

In conclusion, it is my great desire that those in authority will insist that the names be supplied, and, if the facts cannot be substantiated, an apology be demanded, that such a blot may be removed from the honoured work of some of the hardest working members of our well-loved profession.

A LONDON SCHOOL NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

District Nurse.—We should advise you to write to Messrs. W. H. Bailey and Son, 38, Oxford Street, W., and ask for their catalogue, from which you will be able to select your requirements.

Mrs. Taylor.—We should recommend you to procure “Infancy and Infant Rearing,” by Dr. J. B. Hellier, M.D., Surgeon to the Hospital for Women and Children, Leeds. It is published by Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd.

Three Years’ Certificate.—It is very good experience to take an appointment abroad for a time, and there is nothing so educative as foreign travel, but unless you go abroad in connection with a well known society you should make very careful enquiries as to the post, and be sure to have a written contract.

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.

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