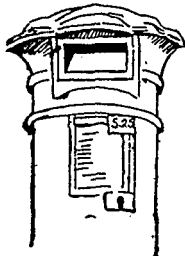


Letters to the Editor.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am in receipt of yours of the 14th inst., enclosing cheque for £1 ls. for Puzzle Prize. Thanking you for your appreciation of my solutions,

I am, yours faithfully,
A. McINTYRE.

City Hospital, Comiston Road,
Edinburgh.

THE NURSING OF ADVANCED CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with pleasure in last week's Journal Miss Harriet Fulmer's able plea for the nursing care of advanced cases of tuberculosis. By all means let us, by every means in our power, do what we can to further the cure of incipient and early cases, but do not let our zeal in this direction tempt us to forget the incurably ill, at whose service all our skill should also be placed. In our solicitude for the betterment of the race, we must not overlook the individuals who have fallen by the way, hopelessly maimed, and to my thinking a nurse is at her best when devoting her energies to cases of this class, and it is the best nurses who do so devote themselves. There is no excitement, no praise to look forward to for having "pulled through" a critical case, but just a steady performance of ordinary duties, for a patient whom disease may render querulous and captious, but who is, nevertheless, increasingly dependent upon the nurse for the comfort of his few remaining weeks of life. Nurses sometimes shrink from devoting themselves to incurable work, because they say it is so sad, but I do not know of any branch of nursing which yields such solid satisfaction, or such consciousness that one's work is worth while. If anyone doubts it—anyone, that is, possessed of the real nursing spirit, the desire to alleviate suffering—let her try incurable nursing for a while, and, especially the nursing of advanced cases of tuberculosis. It is good to learn Miss Fulmer's belief that in doing our plain duty to this class of case, we are, by a more humane and closer supervision of the advanced case, also doing our part in the prevention of the national scourge.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
WARD SISTER.

NURSES' DEBATING SOCIETIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to notice the formation of a Nurses' Debating Society, reported in connection with the Irish Nurses' Association. I wish all Nurses' Leagues and Societies would have a debating branch, for they are not only pleasant but most useful. Nurses are only just beginning to realise how essential it is they should be able to speak in public. Whether it is as public officials they must voice the needs of the Associations which they represent, such as County and District Nursing Associations, whether they take up work in health departments under municipal bodies, or whether they desire to discuss their own professional affairs, it is most desirable that they should be able to speak in public. This most nurses, however, shrink from, especially if the atmosphere in which they find themselves is an antagonistic one. The gift for public speaking may be well developed in the friendly atmosphere of the Debating Society of a Nurses' League, and once possessed is of the greatest possible value. By all means, therefore, let us see that latent talent in any of our members is not lost for want of development. A facile tongue and a facile pen are the best weapons of defence, whether of an individual or a profession.

Yours faithfully,
AN ENGLISH NURSE.

Notices.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

Last Words for 1908.

Our last words for 1908 must be words of congratulation to those who have toiled long and earnestly to secure the legal registration of trained nurses. The result of their work is now becoming apparent, and the principle for which they have striven has been endorsed both by a Select Committee of the House of Commons; and by the House of Lords, after full consideration of the Nurses' Registration Bill, proving that steady, earnest, and persistent work to attain a righteous purpose is bound eventually to be effective. The very last word must be a reminder that in the immediate future there is still strenuous work ahead of us. Now that registration of nurses is assured, and we hope at no very distant date, quite a number of people seem anxious to draw up Registration Bills, and to create General Nursing Councils. One thing, however, we must stand firm for—the principle of Direct Representation of the Registered Nurses on their Governing Body. This right has been acknowledged by the House of Lords, and the Bill, as it now stands, provides that the nurses who take their seats on the Council shall do so as the elect of their colleagues. At all costs we must maintain this right, and hand it on to our successors unimpaired. And so to work.

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