

come in contact with several so-called thoroughly trained nurses—and who I regret to own—although knowing the *technique* of their professional work well, were as *women* impossible beings. The majority were entirely devoid of that inspiring self-confidence which exercise of thought and responsible action alone develops. Many of these nurses had undergone a three years' curriculum of training, and could, I believe, have pounced on a given artery in the dark—but, without exception, they were absolutely devoid of *savoir faire*. Why? Their lives were ordained for them. They lived by rule. Like the soldiers of a Roman centurion, they were directed and they went; in every minute detail of their cramped existence some superior officer thought for them, and they obeyed, so that they seemed to have lost the faculty of self-reliance. Is this right, is this *training* in its truest sense, and is it true liberty of living? I think not. A trained nurse should be a person who, having learnt the great and most difficult lessons of self-control, is also encouraged to acquire a large and varied experience of human nature, and to apply the knowledge so that she may bring wide and liberal judgment to bear upon all the difficult situations in which she will be inevitably placed. We untrained women in our distracting hours of need, when a beloved husband or darling child is suffering, and needs the skilled attention of a trained nurse, want a woman in the truest sense of the word, a strong loving, helpful *sister*, in whom we can place entire confidence and who will be able to estimate our grief and pity the resulting weakness. We resent in the place of such a woman a *helpless creature*, devoid of individuality and common sense, an expressionless Dutch doll of a thing, with no more expansion in her soul than in her nerveless face, who buzzes and irritates and flies in our face like the proverbial Yankee "June bug." Is this species the result of paternal government? I should read with interest the opinion of your readers.—Yours truly,

JOAN CARSTAIRS.

REPLIES.

Miss M. Jessop, Bedford.—The MS. submitted is more suitable for a society paper. We have not space to deal with ulterior matters, and must be professional, even at the expense of not being "smart," which we regret to condemn as the acme of modern vulgarity. Read "Dodo," and then "praise Allah" for your inability to "move in a smart set." We should also advise you to spend some of your spare time in visiting the sick and needy, and compare your life with those that *suffer pain*; deny yourself a new frock and bonnet, and give to the poor. You will thus appreciate the numerous blessings which you possess.

Miss Grace Avery, Bolton.—We regret that our experience of life has convinced us of the justice of your criticism; it is personal feeling which is the strong lever that arouses superhuman effort. We are, however, thankful for *results*, and find it wise not to exact *motives*. We should advise you to do likewise, always excepting your own personal actions. We can afford to be more censorious concerning our own conduct than concerning that of our neighbour.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Mrs. Roberts-Austen, London (with enclosure); Miss Grace Avery, Bolton; Miss Amherst, Colchester.
- B. Miss Brady, Dublin; Miss A. Bann, Oxford.
- C. Mrs. Carstairs, Carlisle; Mrs. Cameron, Dundee.
- G. Mrs. Gordon, London (with enclosure); Miss Jessie Green, Leicester.
- J. Miss M. Jessop, Bedford (with enclosure).
- L. Miss Landale, Edinburgh (with enclosure).
- M. Miss Mostyn, Swansea.
- R. Mrs. Rose, London (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Saltaire, Rugby; Miss G. Swann, Ontario.
- T. Miss Thompson, Paris (with enclosure); Miss Travers, San Remo.
- W. Miss Welby, Grantham (with enclosure).

A CUP OF DELICIOUS
MAZAWATTEE TEA
 WILL REMIND YOU OF THE CHOICE TEAS OF
THIRTY YEARS AGO.

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