

exhaustion amongst Nurses. In the past, "Sairey" consoled herself with the bottle; to-day, Nurses fly to the narcotic, and it is well if the much discussed cigarette is her only soother. We come back through all this smoke to the real evil—overpressure of work—and in spite of the great effort which has been made by Hospital authorities to minimize this evil, still more will have to be done. All experienced Nurses will hail with approval the institution of the Preliminary course of education, in the hope that with this sound basis of theoretical education acquired before admission, the Probationer will be permitted in the future to learn her practical work, at least for her first year's training, without any further theoretical study. If the Royal British Nurses' Association can bring about this much to be desired consummation, it will have accomplished a great work.—I am,
"AN OLD HOSPITAL SISTER."

Comments and Replies.

MADAM.—Can you, through the columns of the NURSING RECORD, inform me of any Home or Institution where an old lady, subject to fits, can be received for £20 per annum; our means being very limited. The kindness with which former questions have been invariably answered, must be my apology for thus troubling you, and all information will be most gratefully received by
AN ANXIOUS DAUGHTER.

[Perhaps some of our readers can help our correspondent.]

REPLIES.

Miss Mary Spanton, Buxton.—We should advise you to communicate with Miss E. J. R. Landale, 4, Rutland Square, Edinburgh, who is interesting herself in the subject of a uniform for the protection of members of the R.B.N.A.

Mrs. Ellen Gubbins, London.—We think your decision is wise just at this crisis. When the police have dealt with the abuses exposed in the *British Medical Journal*, we should advise you to try and carry out the excellent suggestions in Mr. Luke Freer's letter of this issue. Doubtless the innocent will suffer with the guilty at this juncture, but that will give the impetus for reform, as in the case of trained Nurses—the purification of a calling must come from within.

Miss Yatman, Winchester.—Thanks for letter and address. We are much interested in the subject of Nursing in rural districts. The accusation of "sweating" is correct in the case alluded to, as, by the system, persons who can afford to pay the just price for a Nurse, obtain her services at one-fourth of its marketable value, and thus deprive efficient Nurses of a livelihood, and reduce their salaries to starvation point. No woman can keep herself *clean*, much less housed and fed, on 10s. a week, even if she occasionally picks up crumbs at the rich man's table. No respectable domestic servant will accept such a wage; from what class then are these Cottage Nurses to be drawn?

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Mrs. Roberts-Austen, Hayling Island.
- E. Nurse Edith, Eden Bridge (with enclosure).
- F. Mr. E. Luke Freer, Birmingham.
- G. Mrs. Gubbins, London.
- H. Miss Harrison, Leeds; Mrs. Hartopp, Leicester.
- L. Miss E. J. R. Landale, Edinburgh; Miss Laurence, Antwerp.
- M. Miss Morrison, Elgin, N.B. (with enclosure); Mrs. Markham, Harrogate (with enclosure).
- P. Miss Payne, Cape Town; Miss A. Peters, London.
- R. Mrs. Rose, London (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Isla Stewart, London (with enclosure); Miss Symonds, Dublin.
- T. Miss Travers, Maidstone; Miss Treves, Leamington.
- Y. Miss Yatman, Winchester.

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