

Comments and Replies.

Mrs. C., Brighton.—We cannot advise you to open a Nursing Home for the treatment of the sick, as you have not been trained. The superintendence of such a Home is very responsible, and we consider it unjustifiable for those who are not trained to undertake such responsibility. There must be one trained head to such an establishment if it is to be efficiently conducted. The fact that your uncle is a medical man, and has promised you cases, is in our opinion to be deplored. Go to a good training school and learn nursing, but do not attempt to conduct a Home Hospital until you have a certificate.

Sister A., Dublin.—London provides plenty of private cases for nurses in the winter months, but few private nurses are occupied all the year round, and every year the profession becomes more crowded. We fear a club for nurses in the towns you suggest would not pay expenses—especially in the summer—the counter attraction of cycling and country air would prove too much for it. In London nurses do not appear to need clubs—very few make use of them to any extent—and certainly, without supplementing the membership with outsiders, such a scheme cannot be made to pay. Perhaps if the management of a nurses' club was vested in the hands of the nurses themselves they might take more interest in the scheme, but we all know the lack of enterprise in the average nurse; all she wants when off duty is recreation without personal trouble.

Miss C. J., Birmingham.—Consult the local press. The subject should interest them.

Inquirer, London.—No special training in our opinion should qualify for registration, whether that training is received in hospitals for special diseases, in asylums, or in maternity homes. We do not for a moment deny that nurses, receiving such training, acquire a considerable amount of dexterity and skill in those branches of which they have had special experience, and we do not in the least desire to depreciate the value of their work. All we

say is that partial training, of whatever nature, does not qualify for recognition as a trained nurse. The medical profession have wisely determined that the necessary conditions for medical registration are the triple qualifications of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. This is the only scientific basis, and nurses should be satisfied with no less than nursing qualifications in the same branches.

Nurse P., Liverpool.—We should advise you to have a thorough training before you think of nursing abroad. Nurses who take up this work need to be exceptionally well-trained, besides being self-dependent and self-reliant women. Difficult situations, and sudden emergencies, frequently arise, necessitating prompt decision, and the nurse is very dependent on her own resourcefulness. It is the greatest mistake to suppose that the "second best" nurses are suitable for work abroad; on the contrary, it is the cream of the profession that is wanted. It is most requisite that such nurses should be many-sided, and able at a pinch to cook the dinner, clean a stove, and scrub a saucepan.

Miss T. P., Cardiff.—We do not know of any training school which gives instruction for so short a period without requiring payment. We doubt whether you will find one.

Country Matron.—We quite sympathise with your taste for gardening, and do not think that you could employ your leisure hours more healthfully. You are fortunate to have a garden. It is one of the delights of a country matron, which her town sister is obliged to forego.

Nurse P., London.—We must reiterate our opinion that it is not "good form" for a nurse to arrive at a new case with a bicycle. It is not calculated to inspire the friends of the patient with the belief that she will devote herself to her duty. The condition of the patient is usually acute on her arrival, and it must seem to the friends somewhat heartless conduct on the part of the nurse, to consider her own pleasure at such a time, even though she may, and doubtless would, be most scrupulous as to leaving her patient for a run on her machine. It is extraordinary to us how many nurses seem to consider our views upon this matter somewhat hard.

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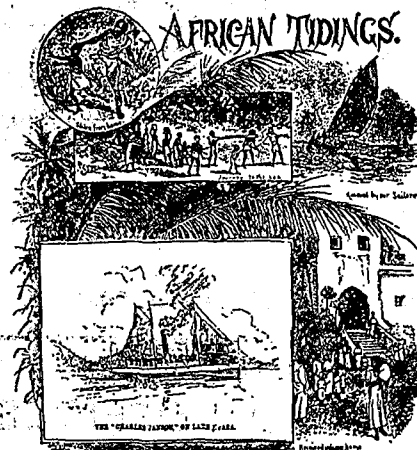
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