

conditions, to break down the nervous system and health of even the strongest woman. To the public, an acute illness in the house is an experience which rarely occurs more than two or three times in a lifetime. It appears to them an exceptional occasion, and they consider that a nurse should "rise to the emergency," and be pleased to work most of the twenty-four hours day after day. She is, in the view of many people, wanting in devotion to her work if she is not willing to do so.

But to the nurse the emergencies are continuous. She goes from case to case just at the time when they are at their greatest height. When the patient begins to mend, her services are as soon as possible dispensed with, for a trained nurse is a costly necessity, and the total expense amounts in many cases to a third, or even a half of the family income for the week, so as soon as may be, she returns to the institution to which she belongs, to be sent, perhaps, to another acute case the same night, and so her life goes on. How is she to keep her health, her temper, or her spirits, for the latter are notably affected by want of sleep, if she never has any adequate time for rest? Further, the public complain that nurses "talk shop." It is quite wrong to do so I admit, but when a nurse's whole time is absorbed in going from one case to another, and she is continuously on duty, what time has she to cultivate her mind, to read, or to hear good music, see good pictures, or go to a good play? What wonder that the public find her dull and uninteresting. I am sure many private nurses are full of views on this one point alone, and could a tale unfold.

I am, Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
REASON IN ALL THINGS.

## Comments and Replies.

*Candidate.*—It is entirely a matter for your own judgment. The large majority of candidates do not wear uniform because, having had no previous nursing experience they do not possess it. Scrupulous neatness, and dainty cleanliness, whether uniform be worn or not, are the points which will commend themselves to most Matrons.

*Staff Nurse.*—Setons are rarely used now, so we are not surprised that you have not become acquainted with them in the course of your practical work. However, quite lately their use has been advocated by Mr. Walter Whitehead in the treatment of migraine. He passes an ordinary tape seton through the skin at the back of the neck, which is transfixed with a long-bladed scalpel, and a long probe is passed through the wound before the knife is withdrawn. To this a piece of household tape about half an inch wide is attached by means of a ligature and passed through the wound. Four inches of tape are left free on each side, and then tied together to prevent the accidental withdrawal of the tape. The patient is instructed to move the tape from side to side each day, and the seton is usually worn for three months at least.

*Ignoramus.*—A personal interview is a necessity in most cases before acceptance as a probationer. You should write to the Matron you mention, asking if she has a vacancy, and if she will consider your application. If so, she will probably appoint a time for an interview.

*A Country Girl.*—Nurses, as a rule, have not cultivated the art of public speaking, and are very shy of speaking at public meetings. The habit is one which may be cultivated, and we owe it to our profession to be able to express a well considered opinion on professional matters if need be. We should say, therefore, by all means take lessons in elocution if you are able to obtain them. If you eventually are able to accomplish your desire and receive nursing training, you will not find you have wasted your time.

---

## THE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, SOHO SQUARE, W.

Founded 1842.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1887.

President—THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY. Treasurer—F. A. BEVAN, Esq.

The Hospital for Women was the first established in this or any other country exclusively for the treatment of diseases peculiar to women. This National Institution is entirely dependent upon

**Voluntary Contributions, which are most urgently needed.**

In addition to the Free Wards, the New Wing, opened in 1869, is available for those able to contribute a weekly sum towards their maintenance.

Bankers—Messrs. BARCLAY and Co., Limited, 54, Lombard Street, E.C., and 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.  
DAVID CANNON, Secretary.

---

Patron—H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

## ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, FOR CHILDREN WITH HIP DISEASE, QUEEN SQUARE, BLOOMSBURY.

Receives Patients from all parts. Provides for a class of terribly afflicted little ones mostly ineligible for General Hospitals. Beds, 68. New Subscriptions, Donations and Legacies urgently needed for the support of this unendowed charity. Bankers—Messrs. HOARE, Fleet Street. Messrs. DRUMMOND, Charing Cross.

STANLEY SMITH, Secretary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)