

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is good news that at last there is evidence that the need of some qualification for nurses who take up maternity and gynaecological work is felt. Training in the latter branch of work is afforded to a few—very few—nurses in the course of their term of probation, and their receiving it is regarded as a counsel of perfection rather than as a matter of course. Yet both gynaecological and maternity cases must be nursed. Where do the nurses learn their work? I say unhesitatingly that in the former class of cases they learn it for the most part from experience gained in the care of private cases, and, in the latter, three months' training in a special hospital, without any previous knowledge of the rudiments of nursing, is a common qualification. It is surely a reproach to our training-schools that it should be so.

Yours obediently,
OBSTETRIC NURSE.

A POST-GRADUATE COURSE FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is with great pleasure that I note there is a possibility of a Post-Graduate Course for nurses. It has long been a great want, as all nurses who have been appointed to positions of heads of training-schools, and, consequently, teachers of nursing, can testify. Their work in this connection is that of amateurs, not experts, whereas they should certainly bring expert knowledge to bear upon it. It is a pity that the members of hospital committees have often so little knowledge of the working of the nursing departments of the hospitals which they govern. Nothing would make more for the better education of nurses than the comprehension of their needs on the part of hospital governors.—Yours faithfully,

SUPERINTENDENT.

Comments and Replies.

New British.—Pupils who have received private tuition are not eligible for the examination of the London Obstetrical Society. A candidate's certificate of attendance on cases must be signed by a Registered Medical Practitioner, a Matron, or a Certificated Midwife holding a position as Teacher at a Hospital recognised by the Council. We should advise you to write to the Secretary of the London Obstetrical Society, 20, Hanover Square, London, W., and ask for the regulations governing the Society's examinations.

Certificated Nurse.—Yes; you are eligible for admission to the Directory issued under the authority of the Matrons' Council. Write to the Manager of the publishing offices at 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., for a form of application.

Miss Vernon.—There are preliminary training-schools in connection with the London Hospital, Guy's Hospital, and the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. These are for probationers provisionally accepted in connection with these hospitals. There is at present no central school where an intending probationer can take out a course of preliminary training.

Matron.—The Matron is responsible to the Committee for the efficiency of the nursing arrangements, therefore if you are not satisfied that the out-patient department is efficiently officered, we should advise you to present a report on the subject in writing to your Committee, and ask their sanction for the employment of additional nurses.

Notices.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)