

do not let us attempt to distinguish between Major and Minor schools.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
GRADUATE.

THE MANY-SIDED PRIVATE NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to endorse Miss Hurlston's opinion that it is essential private nurses should be women with business capacity and sound common sense. Those who possess initiative and resource will find private nursing makes continual demand on these qualities, and their use doubles the value of the strictly professional part of a nurse's work. During my five years' private nursing I have undertaken, as being clearly part of my duty to my patients, nearly every office a woman can fill in a home, even keeping household accounts, undertaking correspondence, and doing the shopping and cooking. In my opinion every private nurse should be a well-educated, versatile, and thoroughly capable woman; then she would be equal to the emergencies and difficult situations that constantly arise, and we would hear less of the unsatisfactoriness of private nurses. The pity of it is that in private nursing, as in hospital, it is just the very type of woman who in brains and character best meets the situation who, by reason of her delicate organisation, is the first to break down under the strain of such work, a strain which is too often chiefly due to the incapacity of her partly-trained predecessor in a household. As to good manners, nurses, above all people, should realise the truth of Kingsley's saying, that true courtesy springs from kindness of heart—one of the first essentials in every nurse.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
ALICE M. BEEDIE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I heartily agree with your correspondent who says that "a woman should cultivate agreeable and courteous manners before she is twenty-three or she never will." I wish this were universally realised. It seems to me very unreasonable of the public to blame hospitals and nursing institutions for the lack of manners on the part of nurses. Surely women should come to us for training already possessed of good manners; it should not be necessary to include instruction on this point in the three years' curriculum of nursing education. What a much easier time superintendents of private nursing institutions would have if nurses always exhibited agreeable and courteous manners to one another when in the home, and in relation to the households of their patients! How constantly one hears of little discourtesies of nurses to one another, and, while their nursing powers are acknowledged, that they did not "get on" with this or that person. One knows the many excellencies of such women, and it does seem a pity that their excellencies should be marred, and their usefulness lessened, by faults of manner. One wishes one could disclaim the remark one so constantly hears—nurses are so disagreeable and so censorious. Unfortunately it is often true. No one knows it better than one who lives in the house with them.

Yours faithfully,
SUPERINTENDENT.

THE DUTY OF SELF-SUPPORT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to note that attention is drawn in your columns to the need of giving a systematic education to girls. Too often, even in these days, they are allowed to grow up with little or no education to fit them to make their way in the world. I wonder how many of the women readers of your journal could assert that their parents taught them the supreme value of education, and the duty of self-support? I expect the majority would be compelled to say that they learnt to look forward to the time for leaving school as the time when a life-long holiday would begin. How they are to be maintained in middle life and old age is a question which most women put on one side, and parents not only, as a rule, deliberately shirk it also, but if one of their daughters, more than usually far-sighted, looks the question in the face, and desires to qualify herself for gaining her own living, cold water is thrown upon her aspirations, until the chances are that eventually she settles down to the narrow round of social "duties" which convention requires of middle-class women. Her gifts get little chance of development, and, turned in upon herself, by the time she arrives at middle life she is a sad example of "what might have been."

Surely it is time that parents faced their parental obligations in regard to their girls, that they brought them up to expect to earn their own living as a natural and right thing, and that they should not consider their duty to their offspring fulfilled until they see their daughters as well as their sons launched on the path of self-support. Even those women who have means are happier for an occupation; for those who have not it is absolutely essential if they are to maintain any self-respect.

Yours faithfully,
A SELF-SUPPORTING WOMAN.

INTERNATIONAL COURTESY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Please accept my sincere thanks for your courtesy in sending me a copy of your publication giving a review of my book on Massage.

With my best wishes for continued prosperity for your journal, I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,
KURRE W. OSTROM.

112 N. 16th Street, Philadelphia.

[The book referred to, whose notice in our columns Mr. Ostrom courteously acknowledges, is that on "Massage and the Swedish Movements," published in this country by Mr. H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street, W.C.—Ed.]

AN OUTDOOR UNIFORM.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice in the daily papers recently an outcry against the abuse of nurses' uniform. It seems to me that the time has come, not for the protection of an outdoor uniform, but for discarding it altogether. Why not? Why when we are out of doors should we proclaim our calling to everyone? There were originally, I take it, two principal reasons for the adoption of outdoor uniform. First, that it was respected, even by the lowest, and was consequently a protection to its wearer. This is no longer

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