

[In theory, we are in sympathy with much that our esteemed correspondent writes, but in practice we do not think that there is any chance of a Nurses' League succeeding in this country, at present, unless it has the sympathy and active support of the lady at the head of the training-school. We were forcibly reminded of how a Matron may view a Nurses' League by the reply of one to an inquiry as to how soon the nurses in her hospital were to have the benefit of such co-operation. "I know my own business best," was the reply. The answer which sprang to the tip of one's tongue, and with an effort remained there, of course was, "But is it *your* business?" Is it not rather *equally* the business of every certificated nurse (and there are dozens) trained in the school? Until it is realised by the majority of Matrons that the nursing staff have such rights, what chance have they of forming a harmonious and useful League? None whatever. No, we must look to the Matrons to set the example, to take the initiative, and encourage nurses to go forward. Nothing but lack of discipline can result from any other course in our schools. Where we differ from the American system is this, it is the almost invariable rule in the States for graduate nurses, those eligible to form a League, to leave hospital work when certificated and start private nursing; in England it is the exception, and by far the greater number of certificated nurses are to be found in the higher grades of hospital work or in other branches, such as district work, where they are still working under supervision. Practically, these nurses are not free agents as private nurses are, and can never entirely become so; indeed, the Matron as a public official is not entirely free to take a strong line if the Chairman and Committee are opposed to such action. Much has to be taken into consideration before women, especially nurses, can organise effectually. We are still merely classed as "chattels" before the law.—Ed.]

NURSES' SICK FUNDS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Can any contributor give me information as to Sick Funds to which nurses can contribute? I know of the Royal Pension Fund, but in it the Sick Fund can only be contributed to after a pension, and I want information about Sick Funds only.

ENQUIRER.

THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP.

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

DEAR MADAM,—We hear so much about leaders and leadership in these days in relation to our profession that it may be useful to consider what are the essential characteristics of the latter all the world over. Certainly position is not the only thing which counts; personal characteristics also go to the making of a leader. The position was well defined by Lord Halifax, President of the English Church Union, at the forty-fourth anniversary of that Society, held at the Church House recently. In his presidential address he said:—"Leaders who would secure the devotion of their followers must show themselves capable of leading; they must prove themselves courageous, true to principle, indifferent to popular clamour and popular prejudice, fearless of consequences." Lord Halifax goes on to say: "Unfortunately it is

just these things which are conspicuous by their absence, with the result that the Church suffers and souls are lost to her cause who only asked to be enlisted under her banner, and ought to have been amongst the most trusted and valiant of her defenders." I am afraid if we give a true account of the nursing world we shall have to tell the same story. With some notable exceptions, courage, fidelity to principle, indifference to popular clamour, and fearlessness are not the characteristics which we should at once attribute to those whose positions point them out as our natural leaders. They seem for the most part to be too much occupied in having a good time personally, and in smoothing the way of ascent to still higher professional position, to have much spare time for developing the characteristics of leadership, and the nursing profession suffers in consequence. Such, at least, is the opinion of

Yours obediently,

RANK AND FITZ.

P.S.—There is a great amount of nonsense written about "leaders"; what sensible women should do is to follow *principles* and not *persons*.

Comments and Replies.

Miss J. Wilson, 6, Adam Street, Adelphi.—Letter unavoidably held over till next week.

Sister A., Birmingham.—We should advise you not to enter the Army Nursing Service as a Staff Nurse if you have held the position of Sister, as you would probably not be satisfied to perform nursing duties under the superintendence of a senior ward officer. Why not apply to the Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, S.W.?

Nurse Adams, W.—Get "Lessons on Massage," by Mrs. Margaret D. Palmer (Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Strand, W.C.; price 7s. 6d.). Also "Lectures on Massage and Electricity in the Treatment of Disease," by Dr. T. Stretch Dowse (John Wright and Co., Bristol; price 7s. 6d.).

Miss S. G., Sheffield.—If you wish to practise as a midwife, qualify for the L.O.S. examination. Apply to Secretary, Central Midwives' Board, Privy Council Office, London, W. But if you wish to be a maternity nurse, apply to the Matron of a lying-in hospital, get your practical experience, and then go up in September or December for the examination and certificate of the British Gynaecological Society. Apply for information to Dr. Aarons, 14, Stratford Place, London, W.

Notices.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The annual report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has been published, and can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, price 1½d., post free, or 7d. for six copies. All nurses should obtain a copy of this report, and acquaint themselves with the history and progress of the Registration movement. Application forms for membership of the Society can be obtained from the same address.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page VIII.

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