

relief to hear them shout out for something or another. Oh! those were terrible nights, and trying to a nervous system; but we all lived through it, and to see reforms in our hospitals.

But in many workhouse wards, even to this day, the night nurse is subjected to the same terrible strain. What wonder Guardians cannot get or keep trained nurses under these circumstances? It is not at all surprising. Nurses are not hardened in training-schools as they were in my day, and the horrors of loneliness, the sight of sufferings which they cannot relieve, will not be borne. But the wonderful pluck of women who have been and are working in hospitals and infirmaries is indisputable, and has proved beyond all doubt that women can stand *tremendous* mental strain, and buck up under it. Young lady doctors may argue that the responsibility for *treatment* is the real strain. No such thing. In every school where women work they have the advantage of the co-operation and sound advice of their seniors in the profession, and need never take an ounce more responsibility than they feel inclined. It is the long lonely hours on duty, the constant sight of suffering, the responsibility of carrying out correctly every form of medical and surgical treatment, the exhausting physical strain, which prove the quality of a woman's mental calibre, and I claim that trained women nurses all over the world have given ample proof of a true mental balance which ranks the nervous system of women as finely organised as need be. Let the male folk cease prating about the unsuitability of women to act as physicians and surgeons—because one unhappy lady has met an inexplicable death—and realise how reliable must be the physique of a sex which has stood quite sanely the strain of nursing the numberless sick and dying in every quarter of the globe.

Yours truly,  
TWENTY YEARS A NURSE.

#### NURSING ETHICS NEEDED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was travelling down the Strand one day this week in an omnibus when two nurses got in and did nothing but talk "shop" in most audible voices. Then, again, when coming from Whitechapel recently, two nurses in mauve dresses and black cloaks got into the omnibus and secured the only two vacant seats that there were inside, and one of them immediately proceeded in a very loud tone to give a graphic description of an operation for perforated gastric ulcer at which she had been present the previous day. She related what the surgeon had said, what the Sister thought, and also gave her own idea about the case, the passengers and conductor listening breathlessly until we arrived at the Bank, when, I am glad to say, they alighted.

I thought perhaps I ought to have spoken to them about it, but, as they appeared to be nurses who might not care for interference, I decided to leave matters alone. However, I hope they may happen to see this letter, and that it will have the desired effect. I am sure you will agree with me that it is excessively bad form and a great breach of professional etiquette to talk in this way in a public conveyance, and I think Matrons would do well to impress upon their nurses that they cannot be too careful about their conduct when in public, as it is these things, perhaps done

thoughtlessly, that help to bring the profession into so much disrepute.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
A. T. N.

[We have experienced the same lack of good feeling and common sense on numerous occasions.—Ed.]

#### DAILY VISITING NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Will some one of your many nurse correspondents kindly say how a nurse, who goes into a new district to live, and does not wish to keep on with private cases, but still would like to be nursing, should go to work to procure visiting cases (*not district*), and what should be the amount charged the patient, and could a nurse honestly do more than two such cases a day? Apologising for troubling you.—I am, most respectfully yours,  
ANXIOUS.

[A usual charge is 2s. 6d. per hour. A nurse desirous of obtaining daily visiting nursing should have her credentials printed, showing the certificates she holds, and therefore the kind of cases she is qualified to attend. She should also call on the doctors in the neighbourhood and acquaint them with her intention. The number of patients attended must depend on the nature of the cases and the ability of the nurse to get through work.—Ed.]

#### AN EXPLANATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In your review of Vol. II. of "Practical Nursing" you express surprise that children who are convalescent from scarlet fever should be allowed to play with those who are recovering from diphtheria. This, of course, is never allowed, the two diseases being kept strictly separate in different parts of the hospital.

Post-scarlatinal diphtheria is, as a rule, extremely mild, so that a case occurring in a child who is up and about is easily overlooked. Should that happen, there is naturally a great probability of diphtheria bacilli passing from that child to the other patients in the same ward with whom it is in the habit of playing.—I am, yours faithfully,  
HERBERT CUFF.

North-Eastern Hospital.

[The paragraph referred to runs:—"Post-scarlatinal diphtheria.—This occurs most commonly in the convalescent stage, when children begin to play together and use the same toys. Patients recovering from scarlet fever seem to be easily affected by the germ of diphtheria." We are obliged to Dr. Cuff for his explanation, as the paragraph seems to bear the interpretation we put upon it.—Ed.]

#### Comments and Replies.

*Candidate R.N.S.*—To be eligible for membership of this co-operation a candidate must hold a certificate of three years' general training, and be expert in one or more specialties, such as fever or gynaecological nursing, or massage. Twenty-six to thirty is the ideal age to begin private nursing; people do not care for nurses too young.

#### Notice.

##### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)