

starting Fitzroy House, unless a poor class of patient is admitted at fees which do not altogether meet the expenses.

The majority of ladies and gentlemen going into Fitzroy House for treatment would, I believe, be extremely astonished if they were told it was a *charitable institution*, which it is.

There are numbers of excellently-managed home hospitals in London, which have been founded and carried on on a business basis, with which Fitzroy House enters into competition with a most unfair advantage. Its present system of management is neither commercial nor charitable, and it should prove itself one or the other before it appeals for further thousands from the charitable public to carry on business on such an unbusinesslike basis.

I hope the charitable will give their spare cash to voluntary charities, or demand from the Committee of Fitzroy House the ~~chartered~~ accountant's report of past expenditure of public subscriptions and donations before contributing more thousands to the nursing of the well-to-do, thus pauperising a class which would be the first to resent the imputation that they were charitable cases.

If the initial expenses of little home hospitals for the well-to-do in London require something like £30,000 to start before they can be made self-supporting, there must be something radically wrong in the system.—Yours truly,

MANAGER OF SELF-SUPPORTING HOME HOSPITAL.

WHY WEAR CORSETS?

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

DEAR MADAM.—In the paragraph "Some Remarks on Corsets" in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the problem is apparently solved as to how it is possible to wear round that soft portion of the body which is protected by no body walls bands which support the weight of numerous and often heavy garments. To my mind it seems almost funny to raise such a question at all when I should have thought the obvious ones to be asked were: why depend the weight of garments from the waist, and why wear numerous and heavy ones? As I know from personal experience, a small amount of ingenuity and common sense would overcome both these difficulties. Provided that these are done away with, experience again has proved to me that those women are most hygienically and comfortably dressed, and are the best able to carry themselves well, who can dispense altogether with corsets.

I suggest that those recommended by Dr. W. E. Frothingill would have the following disadvantages:—

1. They would reduce to a minimum the play of a large proportion of muscles which are indispensable to a graceful carriage.
2. By reason of their stiffness, a good deal of steel would probably be used in making them, which would mean unnecessary added weight.
3. Such heavy corsets would have to be made of some stout material, which would hinder ventilation.
4. They would be inartistic, even if fashionable, inasmuch as straight fronts are not in accordance with the beautiful curves of the natural figure.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

Leamington Spa.

A. S. WACKRILL.

Comments and Replies.

Miss M. C. F., Grange-over-Sands.—You would be eligible for hon. membership of the Society for State Registration, and hon. members can do much to help forward its work, especially when, like yourself, they can use their pens. Articles and letters in the local and general Press explaining the subject are very valuable. Also much can be done by the individual education of friends and acquaintances as to their stake in the question. The organisation of meetings is also very helpful, and, last but not least, any interest which can be aroused in Members of Parliament is all-important. Also, although the hon. members undertake no financial responsibilities, any subscriptions or donations which can be obtained for the Society are most welcome. The propaganda work, entailing the printing and distribution of literature, is a heavy item.

Middle-Aged.—The Auxiliary Nurses' Society was founded with the object of obtaining work for nurses whose age renders them ineligible for membership of the ordinary nursing co-operations. We think, therefore, you must be misinformed as to the age limit of this Society. We should advise you to apply to the Secretary, 10, Orchard Street, W.

Provincial Matron.—The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was founded in 1899, and there are now six such leagues in this country. The constitutions vary slightly—a healthy sign, proving the autonomy of the leagues, and that their objects have been formulated after discussion and consideration, not merely adopted *en bloc*. The movement for the formation of leagues seems likely to take root and grow. In every case where steps have been taken to form a league of nurses in connection with training-schools the result has been most encouraging.

Three Years' Certificate.—By all means obtain experience in infectious work. It will be a most valuable addition to your equipment as a private nurse.

Miss Edwards.—The course of training for a maternity nurse does not, as a rule, include midwifery experience. Many nurses, and, indeed, many training-schools also, are, however, realising that a maternity nurse is but ill-equipped for her work if she has no midwifery knowledge, and it seems desirable that the curriculum of education in this special branch should form the subject of conference and discussion.

Nurse Robinson.—The basis of asepticism is the necessity for absolute cleanliness; when this is attained the need for the use of antiseptic agents ceases. The perfect simplicity of asepticism commends it as an ideal at which to aim.

Notices.

TO MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A second subscription of 2s. 6d. constitutes a member a life member so long as the Society exists for its present purpose.

At the meeting on Saturday, November 28th, at 20, Hanover Square, to consider the Draft Bill for the Registration of Nurses, only members will be eligible for admission.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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