

monotonous after a time, and all indulgence of the "flesh" renders that flesh extraordinarily tyrannical. My advice to fellow-workers is to subdue the flesh as speedily as possible and be master. One soon ceases to hanker after baubles.

Yours truly,
BREADWINNER AT SIXTY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Of course it is horrid to be plain if one realises it, but a merciful Providence tempers the wind to the shorn lamb. Beauty is in the lover's eye, and, as we all love number one, very few plain persons realise that they are so. All the "gargoyles" of my acquaintance are entirely satisfied with their own personal appearance, and the only women who doubt their charms are the beauties.

Yours, &c.,
THOROUGHLY SATISFIED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—What, after all, is beauty compared to charm? All the most delightful people I know are plain of feature. What of that? They please. No woman need be a "gargoyle" unless she likes. It means she is an unsympathetic, rasping personality; if she were kind and courteous no one would think her ugly. Cultivate good manners is my advice to the "gargoyle" sisterhood.

A. SUCCESSFUL WOMAN.

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

MADAM,—"Another Gargoyle's" letter irritates me. She must be a very helpless person if she cannot make herself a neat and tasteful gown, or cook herself wholesome and refined food; in these days when women are up and doing. What she requires is "food" for the mind—if she has a mind, which one is inclined to doubt, to judge from her sordid ambitions.

C. T. A.

[We think our correspondents are a little severe in handling the "gargoyles." We have some sympathy with their point of view. After all, healthy humanity does hanker after happiness, and the lives of many women who work are terribly dreary, especially when compared with those of the doll-like drones who usually employ their labour. Women need a certain amount of happiness to keep them sympathetic, and beauty in any form is productive of pleasure. We once knew a plain child who determined to be acknowledged a beauty, and by some strange force of character her ambition was realised, although she had not a good feature in her face; she was what old Sister Faith, of Bart's, would have described as "large earted."—Ed.]

THE TREATMENT OF CRIME.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In the last number of the *Nineteenth Century*, Sir Robt. Anderson represents humanitarians as being almost entirely opposed to the infliction of imprisonment, except on the "short sentence" system. This is not so. The least inquiry into the work of the Prisons Committee of the Humanitarian League (which includes on the list of its General Committee such eminent authorities on the criminal law and the treatment of crime as Lord Justice Mathew and Dr. Douglas Morrison) would have

shown him that the object of the Society is to discover and advocate more rational and humane methods of preventing crime, and to urge upon the authorities the acceptance of the principle of reclamation instead of revenge in the treatment of offenders. Humanitarians agree with Sir R. Anderson that the sole object of the criminal law should be to protect the public—then why does he contend that criminals should receive "the due reward of their deeds"?

Equally entertaining is the attempt made by Sir R. Anderson to greet the Home Secretary's new Penal Servitude Bill as an acceptance of his own barbarous and discredited proposals for locking up for life certain criminals. Sir R. Anderson's original suggestion that for an "impenitent thief" there should be but one sentence, imprisonment for life, was very properly scouted by every responsible authority, and Mr. Ritchie himself stated in the House of Commons that he was not prepared to accept Sir R. Anderson's opinion as well-founded, or as affording a basis for legislation or other action.

The scheme of dealing with the professional criminal, as now proposed by the Home Office, has been advocated for several years—long before Sir R. Anderson took up the subject. It is, of course, a wholly different thing from the irrational cruelty of his proposals.—I am, yours, &c.,

CRIMINOLOGIST.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Emma Tyles, Teignmouth.—The International Congress of Women in Berlin opens on Monday, June 13th. A Session during the Congress will be devoted to nursing matters. The meeting of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses takes place during the same week. You will see particulars of the arrangements in this journal next week. We thank you for your expression of appreciation of this journal and its work.

Miss A. M. Goodman, Balsall Heath.—At present, there is no "Register of Trained Nurses" in existence. The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is working to obtain an Act of Parliament providing for such registration; you can help forward its work by becoming a member. You will find an application form on p. vii. of the advertisement pages of this journal, or you can obtain a form direct from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. The *Nursing Directory*, published under the authority of the Matrons' Council, price 5s., is obtainable at 11, Adam Street, Strand. If you hold a three years certificate from a hospital of not less than 100 beds your name is eligible for insertion, but this year's Directory is already in the press.

Miss Nellie Green, Thornaby.—Obtain the *Nursing Directory*, 11, Adam Street, Strand, price 5s. This will give you information about all the leading training-schools. You will find several in the neighbourhood you mention. The Leeds General Infirmary is an excellent training-school.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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