

minority." And surely the few intelligent members of a profession are stronger, and worth more, than whole flocks of sheep members who follow they know not why.

Ignorance must be stamped out and education take its place, in order that the nursing profession may have a firm basis, and the strength and unity that is borne of intelligence will last, for evolution is carried on by adding thought, understanding and knowledge as each progressive step is made.

Therefore, the Irish nurses are to be congratulated on the opportunities they have just had of hearing of the vital points of State Registration from so able a leader as yourself.

May the English nurses not lose time or chance in helping on this great reform.—Yours faithfully,

CAROLINE L. HAYLAND.

WELL DONE, FRANCE!

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

DEAR MADAM,—I beg of you to allow me a little more space in your paper to enable me to answer Dr. Hamilton and Miss Dock.

I must still stick to my heading and still stick to my point, and still say: Well done, France! For they have, firstly, thrown off the yoke of Sisterhoods, and, secondly, they have started training their nurses on an intellectual basis by building a college for the theoretical part of their education. In fact, it has always struck me in talking with French doctors and laymen that they look upon the modern method of nursing as requiring cultured women, the work being of an intellectual, difficult, and responsible character. It is true that they have not yet realised how much there is that is practical and menial in the work, but this will come as their present plan evolves. Whereas in Great Britain they have not yet realised that nursing may be divided into two branches, viz., the administrative and instructive, the technical and practical. That the latter has been developed almost to perfection, with more or less theory, varying in standard in different hospitals, I admit; but I still maintain that this present standard is nothing more than what the superior domestic is capable of attaining. For all the ordinary posts of nursing it is quite sufficient, but is it sufficient for those who are to occupy the higher posts—those of Matrons, of Sisters of wards, of heads of departments? Have I not always maintained that three years do not constitute a fully-trained nurse? I have never troubled about State Registration, because I am as certain of its coming as I am that the sun will rise in Egypt tomorrow, and the bringing in of the Bill will not raise the standard by one iota, though it will assuredly make the Matrons of hospitals more careful to let their nurses go methodically through all the different departments of the hospital, and also make the Sisters of the wards feel their responsibility in the training of the nurses who go through their wards, and not make it a matter of likes and dislikes. In one word, it will make it more thorough, more reliable, to have a Central Board of Examinations, but it will not raise the standard unless we try to do so.

Miss Dock has therefore misunderstood me, for my wish is to raise, and not lower, our profession; nor is it such a very disastrous thing to have housemaids amongst us as our fellow nurses. I cannot see that all branches of nursing are essentially, and only, ladies'

work. Those house and parlour maids, in their black dresses, smart white aprons and caps, and neat cuffs and collars, who join our ranks are not to be compared with the class of *infirmières* in France. Start one of these superior domestics with an average lady in the same ward where the first year is spent in menial and ward work, and ask the Sister which of the two is the more useful to her. Now let us examine these two at the end of three years. The maid has raised herself intellectually, and has kept her physical strength; the lady has lost her freshness and her refinement; she knows a little more theory, and expresses herself and writes a report better than the maid, but can she make a bed better, or a poultice, or a fomentation, or, in one word, is she any better at the technique of nursing? Certainly not. That ladies have been the leaven of the nursing profession; that they have been a refining influence in the wards, both to patients and medical students, is undeniable; that all army and navy nursing should be done by ladies; that all Sisters' posts should be filled by ladies; that no Matron or Superintendent in any hospital, home, workhouse, or any other establishment should be anything but a cultured gentlewoman, are points of the greatest and most vital importance. Only let those who are to hold the higher posts pass higher exams. It is so in all professions, and in a small way we have an example of it in the maternity hospitals—the midwife and the monthly nurse.

EDLA WORTABET.

Comments and Replies.

Matron.—A few volumes of the Transactions of the International Congress of Nurses held in 1901 are still to be had in this country. They are of historic interest, and should certainly be on the shelves of all nurses' libraries. The price is 6s. per volume. Apply to the offices, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand.

Charge Nurse.—Not every nurse is suited for Colonial nursing. Many who can do good work in a well-organised hospital are not suited for the pioneer work, under strange conditions, which usually is required of those who go out to distant parts of the world.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Will the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses whose current subscriptions have not yet been paid, kindly forward them to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible, as the financial year closes on April 30th and all subscriptions should be paid before that date.

CORRECTIONS.

We regret that in the list of new members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, published on the 9th inst., the name of Miss E. A. Emuss (1036) was incorrectly spelt. It should be as at present printed.

Miss Edith Broodbank (1116) was trained at St. Giles' Infirmary, Camberwell, not, as stated, at the North Staffordshire Infirmary.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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