

for her studies, and it is well if she can add thereto a practical knowledge of drugs and dispensing. All these things are easily learned nowadays, and every school of nursing should enforce the production of a certificate of education from its candidates, somewhat similar to that demanded by the Pharmaceutical Society from those who enter for their minor qualification. Moral and physical training are as important as mental efficiency. How many nurses—especially private nurses—does one come across with the true vocation for nursing? It seems to me lamentably few. It is no wonder that the general public look askance at the nurse nowadays, and is not this a slur on what should be one of the noblest of professions that we, who have its true welfare and its good name at heart, should do our utmost to wipe out? How often does one hear a doctor mention the affairs of his patients? Never. Compare this professional aspect with that of the average nurse from the average home managed by the untrained woman. This professional reticence must be drilled into the nurse; it must be admitted that incalculable mischief is often and often done by the chattering busybody, often from sheer lack of etiquette and thought, though sometimes it is deliberate mischief-making. The nurse who is not quite honest, again, is far too common amongst us—the pilferer of small articles. The nurse of questionable moral character, too—the woman who is inclined to be fast. It seems to me that all this shows a very great deficiency somewhere, and surely it is a deficiency that by a determined, united effort can be remedied. Let us all—those of us truly loving the profession which we are following or have followed—buckle to and make that effort. We have a chance before us that we must all make the most of, and one of the first steps will be the supporting of the measures that are being taken for necessary legislation to secure to nurses their adequate position and their just rights.

I am,

Dear Madam,  
MARY C. FAIR.

#### IS BEAUTY A BOON TO NURSES?

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

DEAR MADAM,—Those of your correspondents who have suffered from a superfluity of good looks should just be a right down plain woman, such as I am, if they wish to taste the dregs of disappointment when applying for work.

I am thoroughly well trained, a skilful nurse, have travelled, and am cultured. I know I am a good manager, and could do the work of a Matron thoroughly well if I could get a chance, and yet when I have applied for posts I have over and over again been passed over for a younger and better-looking woman without my good qualifications; indeed, I quite despair of ever having promotion. Once, having good local interest, I hoped to succeed, but did not, and unfortunately overheard the governors chaffing as they left the committee-room.

"Why did you not vote for Miss —?" (that was I), inquired one. "She had excellent recommendations."

"Why? Well, all things being equal, why vote for a gargoyle?" the other laughingly replied. (That also was I.) Yours, &c.,

PLAIN AND PASSED OVER.

#### Comments and Replies.

Miss A. R. Cargill, Miss Elizabeth Ryan, Miss F. W. Carver, Staff Nurse, Miss Mabel S. Smith, Mrs. E. Taylor, Nurse G. Robertson.—The recognised medium in each country through which nurses can offer their services to other nations in the event of war is the Red Cross Society. We should therefore advise you, in the first instance, to apply to the Central Red Cross Committee, 68, Victoria Street, S.W., asking if arrangements are being made to offer the services of British nurses to Japan and Russia in the event of war. If the reply is in the negative we shall be glad to hear from you again.

Nurse Plum.—"Golden Rules of Gynæcology" is by Dr. S. Jervois Aarons, Registrar to the Hospital for Women, Soho. It is published by Messrs. Wright and Co., of Bristol, price 1s. Another booklet of the same series is "Urine Testing for Nurses," by Mr. Mark Robinson.

Nurse E. Hayward.—The two meetings are quite distinct. The International Congress of Women is organised by the International Council of Women—which meets in congress quinquennially—and will meet in June of this year at Berlin. The meeting of the International Council of Nurses, which is also a quinquennial fixture, will be held at the same time and place. Thus you will see that the two Societies, though on friendly terms, are quite distinct organisations.

Staff Nurse.—We should advise you to obtain the two volumes of "Practical Nursing," by Miss Isla Stewart and Dr. Herbert Cuff, price 3s. 6d. each, published by William Blackwood and Sons, London. Also "Materia Medica for Nurses," by Miss L. L. Dock, price 3s. 6d. net, published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., and "Gynæcological Nursing," by Miss Netta Stewart, published by Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton and Co., Ltd., price 2s. 6d.

#### Notices.

##### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

##### CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

##### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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