

a Sister—I believe to look after the linen—after eleven months' connection with the hospital, several of which she has been off duty. Now the question comes, will this lady receive a certificate of efficiency as "a trained nurse" at the end of two years? Such a thing is not impossible, and, moreover, under the present chaotic system of nurse-training, who will be any the wiser if she does? Experience in domestic management, and domestic science generally, is excellent experience for a trained nurse who is desirous of becoming a Sister or Matron; but to be made a Sister after about seven months' work in the wards is surely reducing the whole thing to a farce. But the public is to blame for not demanding a guarantee from the State that a "trained nurse" is trained, and that on a thoroughly efficient system and definite standard.

Yours truly,  
A HOSPITAL SISTER.

#### POOR LAW INFIRMARIES AS SCHOOLS FOR MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to thank you for your Editorial remarks, in last week's issue of your valuable journal, as to the recognition by the Central Midwives' Board of those Poor Law infirmaries which maintain a proper standard as training-schools for midwives. It is very disheartening to those Poor Law Matrons who are trying to raise the standard of the attention bestowed on the patients, and the education of nurses, and who in many cases are beset with great difficulties in the performance of what they believe to be their duty, that there should be such unreadiness to recognise these efforts.

As regards training in midwifery, our large well-organised infirmaries afford excellent facilities, and a point to which you have drawn attention should, I think, be kept well in view, namely, that they do not turn out women having merely three months' special training as midwives, but well-trained nurses who take their midwifery course late on in their training, and thus are able to benefit by it much more than those who have to be taught the most fundamental principles.

In my view, every nurse should receive training in midwifery, and every midwife should be a nurse. I cannot dissociate the two, and I think it is most undesirable to attempt to do so.

Yours faithfully,  
ONE WHO APPRECIATES THE WORK OF  
POOR LAW MATRONS.

#### PROVISION FOR AGED AUTHORS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to call your attention to an error contained in a paragraph on "Women" under the heading of "Outside the Gates" which appeared in your issue of July 9th, 1904.

I have it on the authority of Mdle. Hélène Vacaresco, Lady-in-Waiting to H.M. the Queen of Roumania (and Vice-President of this Society), that, for the present, the castle on the Rhine referred to is "not a home for aged authors, and Her Majesty has only tried to assemble there a few invalid young women with whom Her Majesty is acquainted, and who are clever in general, though not literary."

I have had so many communications in connection

with this that I should be extremely obliged if you would make the correction in your next issue.

With compliments,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

BEATRIX BULSTRODE,

Hon. Sec.

The Society of Women Journalists,  
Granville House, Arundel Street, Strand.

[We regret that the information we received that the Queen of Roumania had given her castle on the Rhine to be used as a home for poor women writers—Roumanians or foreigners—is not true. As we said, it would have been a queenly gift.—Ed.]

### Comments and Replies.

Miss B., London.—Write to the Secretary, Select Committee on Nursing, House of Commons, and say that you desire to give evidence.

Enthusiast.—If your ultimate aim is to become a district nurse, you should study social questions and acquaint yourself with methods of sanitation and hygiene. In short, you should take an interest in preventive as well as in ameliorative work if you are to do the best work.

Provincial Nurse.—Write to Messrs. Garrould, 150, Edgware Road, for their Red Cross catalogue. You will have no difficulty in selecting what you desire with its aid.

Special Hospital Nurse.—We should advise you to get a three years' training in a good general hospital. It is desirable that the general training should precede the special, but no knowledge is lost.

Miss B. A., Islington.—Nursing work in connection with a foreign mission requires a missionary vocation as well as a thorough nursing education. Although you may not have much opportunity for direct evangelistic work, it is essential that you should be in sympathy with the religious aims of the Society which you join.

### Notices.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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