

set the individual above the cause. It is impossible to keep a place clean if you never use a broom.

There are, of course, some black sheep amongst Matrons, as amongst other people, probably due to the fact that they were not turned out of their training-schools earlier in life; but the unjust Matron is the exception and not the rule. The average Matron has the welfare of her hospital and her nursing staff very much at heart, but no Matron would care to undertake the great responsibilities which are placed in her hands if she had no power over her subordinates.

Yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT,  
Matron.

Royal South Hants and  
Southampton Hospital.

[We feel assured that all probationers of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital have due consideration under Miss Mollett's rule; but, as a matter of principle, we consider it wrong that autocratic powers as regards the discharge of probationers should be delegated by a committee, which is responsible to the public for the government of the hospital, to one official. No doubt all Matrons to whom the power of discharge is delegated hold the same views as Miss Mollett. But the fact remains, whether this power is exercised wisely or not, that from time to time in connection with those institutions where this system is in force complaints are rife that probationers are "whisked out of the hospital" and "squandered," and that they have only such possibility of redress as is possible of attainment by a discredited subordinate already out of office. Granted that the Matron is right in her judgment, as in all probability she is in the large majority of cases, still the engagement of the probationer should be officially terminated by the committee with whom her agreement was made. In regard to the argument that Matrons must possess the power of discharge if they are to maintain discipline, speaking with considerable experience as Superintendent of a training-school at a time when to hold such a position meant that one had to deal with turbulent and even disreputable women, we found it quite possible to maintain adequate discipline without having the power of discharge in our own hands. We believe, at the present time, the investment of a Matron with arbitrary powers is much less necessary than a quarter of a century ago. Now that training-schools for nurses are well established, the influence exercised on the pupils by public opinion as voiced by their contemporaries has much the same effect as in our public schools, where it is recognised as a powerful factor in the maintenance of discipline.—Ed.]

#### THE PROGRESS OF GERMAN WOMEN.

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

MADAM,—I should like to thank Miss M. Burr for her (to me at least) extremely interesting appreciation of German women and their work in last week's issue of your paper. I have lived over four years in different parts of the country—not in a nursing capacity. This was certainly several years ago; but even then I was surprised at the interest the majority of educated German women took in all branches of feminine advancement, at the same time remaining model housekeepers. Their interest was both in mental and physical advancement. Although born and bred in England, I must say the women of Germany

look upon all questions from a rather more serious, business-like standpoint than, I think, average Englishwomen do. For instance, in their gymnasiums (I belonged to one myself for two years)—to which girls and women from the ages of seventeen to married women over forty go—they all stick rigidly to their drill, and conform strictly to rules. They come to learn, not *pour passer le temps*. There is no laughing and chatting when at work, but strict order and military-like discipline. They have societies for dress reform, for the promotion of the reading of classic literature, and attend as frequently as men the many scientific and other lectures given so much abroad. As Miss Burr also remarks, they are particularly zealous in their work for the voting of women. With all this, they are by no means heavy and pre-occupied as companions, but are, in fact, childishly gleeful and bright at times, and essentially content and patient. I most thoroughly endorse Miss M. Burr's words, "Englishwomen, beware!" We, I think (in conjunction with our male contemporaries), are somewhat apt to think that, as belonging to the "tight little island," we must of necessity hold supremacy over other lands and peoples in all respects, in all due patriotism be it said. Altogether, it seems, we want more concentration, discipline, and capacity for obedience to those who have authority over us, in whatever sphere we as women may be working: This applies very forcibly to hospital life, I regret to say, with its frequent gossip and undefined, discontented murmurings. Let us stick in all loyalty and steadfastness to our standards.

Faithfully yours,

ONE WHO, THOUGH NOT QUITE ENGLISH, HAS THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF ENGLISHWOMEN MUCH AT  
HEART.

### Comments and Replies.

*Poor Law Infirmary Nurse.*—There is no intention in the minds of the framers of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to disqualify nurses trained in Poor Law infirmary training-schools for Registration; on the contrary, Registration would improve their position by definitely recognising the right of all qualified to rank as trained. The report has arisen from the incorrect reporting of Miss Isla Stewart's evidence in a contemporary. She entirely repudiated the remark attributed to her in our issue last week.

*Certificated Nurse.*—By all means obtain your maternity training, even if you have to make some sacrifices in order to do so. Why not ask your Matron for leave of absence?

### Notices.

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

The Annual Report, 1903-04, is now ready. All those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure it from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

#### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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