

o see that it is only just that those of us who have passed through an arduous training shall, at its successful conclusion, have the defined professional status which can be secured, and secured only, by registration by the State. Probationers will willingly pay then for their training. I doubt many doing so under present conditions.

Faithfully yours,  
A CAMBRIDGE NURSE.

### WOMEN AND EDUCATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The report of the Inter-Departmental Committee *re* Physical Deterioration, published in your issue of August 6th, should be of great interest to all women, whether nurses or not.

It is very interesting to note that out of the nineteen recommendations made, eight intimately concern women and their work, and upon women it will for the most part depend how they are carried out.

Several others we can presume will devolve chiefly upon women, although they are not particularly specified, such as Alcoholism, Feeding Elementary School Children, and Attention to Teeth, Eyes, and Ears.

This being so, it is curious that a strong recommendation was not also made that an Act of Parliament should be immediately passed altering the law in regard to women, and so arranging that they should be elected or appointed upon all boards and committees dealing with education, and that in numbers each sex should be equal. Then perhaps the machinery which already exists might be made more effective. In several clauses I notice stress is laid upon "More systematic instruction in continuation classes." As it is a purely voluntary matter whether a girl or woman, man or boy, attends these classes, I do not see how things are likely to be much improved. Practically all the technical education of this country (as well as the elementary) is arranged by men, with the result that men and boys are catered for, to the almost entire exclusion of the women and girls (I speak of Domestic Economy, not Art, Science, or Commercial). And so often, when these gentlemen do arrange classes for women, they seem to think a course of ten or twelve lessons on Cookery or Dressmaking quite sufficient; so there is need for the "more systematic instruction" recommended, although compulsory attendance is not possible.

Red tape is not conducive to a good voluntary attendance at classes; and when rules, which may work fairly well in the elementary schools, are applied to, and are expected to be rigidly enforced in, the continuation classes, is it to be wondered at that attendances fall?

In the clause upon Cookery, Hygiene, and Domestic Economy, I notice it is recommended "That, as far as possible, (these) should be made compulsory upon the elder girls at school." This is good so far as it goes, and, as a matter of fact, Hygiene, Laundry Work, and Cookery are already taught in the elementary schools. The first and second in the fourth standard, and the third in the fifth and sixth standards, so that girls are taught something of all three between nine and thirteen years of age, sandwiched, of course, between many other lessons. Is it surprising that they forget the little they learn when it is taught in this way?

Would it not be better to devote the last school year

entirely to these important subjects, and, by this means, at least, lay a good foundation of the knowledge which means the health of the nation?

If all girls after passing the sixth standard were passed on to a good school of domestic economy for a year, and attendance made compulsory, as it is in the elementary schools; would this not be a step in the right direction?

In such a school they could learn not only special subjects, such as the effects of alcohol, cookery, and laundry work, but also housewifery, which should be looked upon as the general training or basis of the others. To these schools crèches could very easily be attached, in which, under the guidance and supervision of trained nurses, the scholars could be taught practically the care and feeding of children, home nursing, and first-aid.

If such schools were established all over the country, by the State (and not as money-making concerns), and put under the direction of a committee of practical women (not mere dabblers in philanthropy), should we not be well on the way to solving at least one of the causes of the physical deterioration of our race?

Of one thing we can be quite certain, that until women are allowed to take their proper place beside men in all things connected with women and children, these matters can never be justly arranged.

Apologising for the length of my letter.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

MARY BURR.

River House, Upper Mall, Hammersmith, W.

### Comments and Replies.

Miss E. Purton.—You would find comfortable and most satisfactory shoes at the depôts of the London Shoe Company. The West End one is at 116, New Bond Street.

### 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.

#### 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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)