

## A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to observe in your last issue that there is a lady of rank concerned in the provision of nursing for the poor who not only is convinced of the rectitude of providing none but fully-trained nurses, but who has resigned her position as President of a Nursing Association because she finds that the Nursing Association with which she is connected is not prepared to maintain this standard. "I take no responsibility except with the fully trained," says Lady Victoria Campbell, and many nurses, I feel sure, will agree with me in wishing there were more like her. At present it is far too common for women with most inadequate training to be employed to nurse the sick poor, and, indeed, this is one of the great obstacles which many of us see to the proper organisation of our profession, because every woman with a little knowledge of nursing is encouraged to consider herself a trained nurse, the sole reason, so far as I can discover, being that she is cheap. It seems impossible for the average member of the laity to discriminate the difference between the amateur and the professional nurse. I may perhaps illustrate my meaning in this way.

I have quite a useful knowledge of cooking, and if necessity arose I could probably serve a dinner quite respectably. But if I described myself as a professional cook, and obtained work on that assumption, my employer would have every reason to complain that I had misled him.

In the same way, many women may know something of nursing, but that is quite a different matter from being a fully-trained nurse.

In the case of an indifferent cook nothing worse results, probably, than an attack of indigestion. In the case of an ignorant nurse it is difficult to say what evil may not happen, for once such a woman is called a nurse it seems to be a point of honour with her never to admit that there is anything she does not know. Consequently she will undertake the most critical duties, with no knowledge whatever of the way in which they should be carried out, sooner than admit her ignorance.

I, therefore, entirely agree with you, Madam, that Lady Victoria Campbell has earned the gratitude of all nurses by the stand she has made, and I heartily hope others may follow her example.—Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO REALISES THE DANGERS OF IGNORANCE.

## THE OUTDOOR TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with great interest the description of a simple tent for the outdoor treatment of cases of tuberculosis which you published last week. It seems to me Dr. Ulrich has made a real contribution to the solution of the problem of the effective treatment and eradication of this disease. We rear magnificent hospitals, and the patients admitted to them receive every care and attention, both from a scientific and from a nursing point of view; but the maintenance of these "palaces of pain" is so costly that we can never hope to deal with more than a tithe of the cases by this method, and, further, the change from them to their own homes in the case of the convalescent poor must be tremendous. After all, the best things are always the simplest.—Yours faithfully,

A BELIEVER IN SIMPLICITY.

## Comments and Replies.

Miss L. E. Hall, *Penshurst*.—We think you would be able to obtain literature of the description you require from the Sanitary Institute, Parkes' Museum, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, W. Write to the Secretary, Mr. E. White Wallis, F.S.A. Possibly also the National Union of Women Workers (Organising Secretary, Miss Emily Janes) would be able to supply your want.

Miss Robinson, *Birmingham*.—Nurses of three years' experience are eligible for membership of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Forms of application for membership can be had from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

*Certificated Nurse*.—Visiting nursing is a very useful form of work and an undoubted boon to the middle classes who cannot afford to pay for the entire services of a nurse. We doubt, however, whether you will be able to make it answer financially, at any rate at first; if you can afford to wait it is a different matter.

*Maternity Nurse*.—The practice of squeezing the breasts of an infant when these become hard is a very common one with ignorant women. They may succeed in abstracting some milk, but are very likely to produce abscesses. The hardness will often subside naturally if the breasts are bathed, at the conclusion of a bath, with water rather hotter than that used for the bath. Warm absorbent wool should then be applied. If these simple measures are not effective, a medical practitioner should be consulted.

Miss E. P. Barker.—It is essential that a district nurse should possess good health, be a good walker, really care for the poor, and be desirous of helping them. The interest and excitement of the acute cases and the operation work found in a busy general hospital are not met with to the same extent in this branch of nursing. On the other hand, the good that a district nurse may do in inculcating the laws of health and by preventive nursing is incalculable. After a time we shall realise, no doubt, that preventive nursing is the highest form of our art.

## 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 1d. 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.

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