

Why, because it is *cheap*. And what is the result? That in many instances where a private nurse would formerly have been sent for to the county town at a reasonable fee, she is no longer able to earn this fee, being undersold on all sides by women with a few months' district and maternity training.

It may be argued that co-operation is the order of the age. So it appears to be where rich and poor together combine to make it more and more useless for educated women to undergo a long and arduous training to qualify themselves as nurses.

The result is already apparent. Girls of resource and good education, unless they are very poor and can pay nothing for their training, are passing nursing by for work by which they can earn enough to keep themselves out of the poorhouse in old age, and more and more Matrons are complaining that they cannot secure the best material to train as nurses, and that they have got to make the best of very poor stuff.

That this is true, no one who sees the women in their shabby and bedrabbled uniforms—presumably nurses—going about London can doubt. They are certainly not even of the class from which superior, tidy, respectable, domestic servants are now selected.

The truth is that trained nurses are like shuttlecocks between two battledores, both whacking as much out of them as possible at every turn. The charitable institutions, which in many instances want cheap women's labour, and which fear State interference, whereby they would be compelled to give a just *quid pro quo*; and the middle man outside, who, after his kind, will sweat the uttermost farthing out of every woman worker.

Where formerly I used to advise all the best women I knew to go into a hospital for training, I now warn them to avoid nursing like the plague. The conditions of education, work, and pay are demoralising, and are those to which no man would submit for an hour, and as well-paid Matrons will usually support the employers of subordinate nurses, the committee, and doctors, against the best interests of the nurses themselves, there is absolutely no hope of any improvement until the State authorises the control of the work by an independent, outside authority, which will see justice done to worker and employer alike.

Yours gratefully,
MOTHER OF GIRLS.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FLOGGING.

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

MADAM,—Why is it that, in almost every controversy on the flogging question, some public-school man comes forward to assure the public that *he*, even *he*, was himself flogged in his boyhood? Does he do so from a philanthropic desire to supply an element of comedy to a somewhat dry discussion? Or does he imagine that his own early birchings are, in some mysterious way, really relevant to the point at issue? Thus, in the recent inquiry into the birching scandal at the Sparkhill Police Court, Birmingham, the Chairman, Mr. R. H. Amphlett, K.C., is reported to have observed that "he knew the birch very well when he was at Eton." I can quite believe it; but what possible bearing has it on an inquiry into the conduct of a superintendent of police who birched a boy illegally? Can it be that these gentlemen who obtrude their private experiences in a public discussion intend us to understand that, in view of the superlative excel-

lence to which they have now attained, any punishment which they underwent in youth must of necessity be good for other people, whether in itself legal or illegal? If that be their meaning, the reasoning does not seem very cogent; indeed, their lack of logic raises sad suspicions that they were birched in vain. I prefer to think that they merely wish to enliven the proceedings by a jocose, though irrelevant, remark. Perhaps Mr. Amphlett will enlighten me?

Yours faithfully,
PUZZLED.

Comments and Replies.

German.—We should advise you to write to Dr. Robertson, Medical Superintendent, Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, N.B., Scotland. He is interested in maintaining a high standard of nursing in Hospitals for the Insane, and in the employment of nurses having general as well as special experience. You should state your qualifications; and the fact that you can speak English well.

Tired Probationer.—You cannot do better than go to the London Shoe Company, Ltd., 123, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., or 116, New Bond Street, W. Their shoes are excellent both as to appearance, durability, and comfort, while the price is moderate.

Infirmity Nurse.—You need have no fear whatever as to your position being insecure should State Registration of Trained Nurses come into force. In the first place, all reputable nurses who can prove that they have had a certain amount of training, and that they have been nursing for a given number of years, will certainly be placed on any Register established. Legislation is never retrospective, and the interests of all at present nursing will be assuredly safeguarded. But even otherwise, your qualifications would certainly admit you to the register. There is no suggestion to exclude infirmity trained nurses, as such, from registration.

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 Secretary, 431, Oxford 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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