

Stewart have never been fit to nurse. Yet neither you nor Miss Isla Stewart, the protagonists of the three years' training, were "trained" for three years, nor were many of our leading Matrons, nor was Miss Florence Nightingale herself!

Now, as to the pay of the nurses we send out. "A Mother of Girls" cannot know the pay of our nurses. They receive the first year they are on the private staff £30 and washing, board and lodging between their cases, and free attendance and full pay in any illness. A nurse working on her own account can hardly afford to be ill or to take holidays—or if compelled to do so—they are a source of anxiety; whereas our nurses get at the rate of a day off once a fortnight, saved up for them while at private cases, and taken on their return. In addition to this they get three weeks' annual leave, and if they have any difficulty in knowing where to spend this holiday time, we are always able to send them to the seaside or country, &c., as they may prefer.

It is a very open question whether a nurse working "on her own hook" does better. One year she may, but a bad year makes a great hole in the savings of a good year, and several bad years spell disaster. Many, many are the dismal tales I have heard of this. The second year on the private staff our nurses get £35, the third year £40, the fourth year £45, then (after six years from the date of entering the "London" training-school as a probationer) they receive an extra £5 a year, and after twelve years' service another £5 a year, and after eighteen years, when they will have been receiving £55 for the past six years, they can retire on a full-pay pension.

Now, take a nurse in private work and let her nurse every year from twenty-eight to fifty years of age, that is twenty-two years. Let her save £30 every year, which I think is a liberal estimate, because in that twenty-two years there must of necessity be several bad years, and probably two long illnesses, with all the attendant losses and cost of rooms. After twenty-two years (and not many nurses work for twenty-two years) she will have saved £660, which will give her at 3 per cent., say, £20 a year. Even if she had saved £1,000, she would be getting £30 a year—£30 a year at fifty years of age! Our nurses would be receiving £55 a year at forty-five years of age, equal to 3 per cent. on £1,850, and would also have any of their own savings to the good.

Please where does the underselling come in?

Yours faithfully,

November 8th, 1904.

SYDNEY HOLLAND.

#### BACTERIOLOGY FOR PROBATIONERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It was never suggested that the "Puzzled Matron" should be further puzzled by the question of how to keep her probationers' hands clean. This must be done by the pressure of trained public opinion brought to bear on hospital management, which would then, as in America, provide a sufficient number of ward-maids and less brass work.

As to the experience of a "Practical Person," either there is truth in aseptic principles or there is none. In the former case we must assume that the microbe's hand has not yet struck. But to speak seriously, I must say from experience of hospitals and nursing homes that there is comparatively very little "dirty" work to do in the latter and that the time for doing it can be better arranged.

In one ward I was in I had six or eight cots, largely made of brass, to keep polished. I liked the work and took a great pride in it. But sometimes, owing to the visit of the surgeon at an unusual hour, I had to attend to him with hands stained e'en through house-maid's gloves, and then I was *not* proud.

Yours faithfully,

The Grange, Kingston,  
Taunton.

E. L. C. EDEN.

#### A CALAMITY TO THE EAST-END.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The serious announcement that the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, Bethnal Green, must, for want of funds, be partly closed at the end of December, unless sufficient assistance can be obtained in the meantime, is a matter of vital import to those concerned in the welfare of the surrounding crowded populations of east and north London.

Such a loss of hospital accommodation for children in a teeming district where numbers of families occupy only one room, at any time deplorable, would at this period of unusual distress be little short of a calamity to the struggling poor of our part of London, and we, the undersigned, brought into close daily contact with the crying needs of the suffering little ones, earnestly appeal to your readers to give freely towards the good object of enabling this excellent hospital to tide over its difficulties without restricting its beneficent work.

We are, Madam,

Your obedient servants,

C. G. STEPNEY.

W. G. MORCOM, Honorary Chaplain, Vicar of St. Michael's, London Fields.

J. E. WATTS-DITCHFIELD (Member of the Committee), Vicar of St. James-the-Less, Bethnal Green, E.

ALGERNON LAWLEY, Rector of Hackney, and Rural Dean.

H. V. S. ECK, Rector of Bethnal Green, and Rural Dean.

E. R. FORD, Vicar of Shoreditch, and Rural Dean.

J. MORGAN GIBBON, Minister of Stamford Hill Church.

J. PAGE HOPES, Minister-in-Charge of New Gravel Pit Church, Hackney.

JOHN HILLMAN, Hampden Chapel.

W. CUFF, Shoreditch Tabernacle, Hackney Road.

WM. THOMAS, Secretary, Hackney Free Church Council.

GEO. B. COX, Missionary Rector, St. John-the-Baptist Catholic Church, The Triangle, Hackney.

H. ADLER, Chief Rabbi.

J. HASLAM-JONES, Mare Street Chapel, Hackney.

#### 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.

#### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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