

gence and an amount of apathy on the question of organisation which is truly amazing and very discreditable. Let the rank and file wake up, and Registration will be an accomplished fact in a very short time. Apathy is almost as "pernicious" as absolutism—the latter can only flourish, where the former exists.—ED.]

A CENTRAL EXAMINATION SCHEME.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad that you point out in your last issue the fallacy of any Central Examination for Nurses other than one having the force of State authority. What is the good of any voluntary scheme? None whatever from my point of view. Who would take part in it? Certainly not the majority of the large London hospitals, if we may judge from the past. Have they ever taken part in any combined scheme for the good of nurses? Never. Then why should it be supposed that they would do so now? We have got quite tired of waiting for the authorities of the twelve London Training Schools to move, and somewhat annoyed with the arrogant way in which they assume that until they condescend to do so everyone else must sit still and wait. Why? Theirs are not the only, or even the largest, interests involved, and there is no valid reason why other London and provincial hospitals, and Poor Law infirmaries, should not promote what they conceive to be the best interests of nurses. When were reforms ever initiated in high places? But this by the way.

What I am really concerned to point out is that a voluntary examination would be useless. A few institutions which already give a satisfactory course might combine, but this would not touch the essential question, which is, that it is necessary in the public interest that some organisation should forthwith be put in motion which would ensure the adoption of a minimum standard by every institution which trains and certifies nurses. It is manifest that unsatisfactory training-schools would not enter their pupils for an optional examination, and it appears to me puerile to put such a scheme forward as the solution of our present difficulties, and shows on the part of the promoters either an entire lack of comprehension of present nursing conditions, or an unworthy attempt to delay progress.

Yours obediently,
A DISBELIEVER IN HALF MEASURES.

THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The extract which you published in your last issue from Dr. Marc Blatin's book, in which a realistic description is given of an operation day in a French hospital, and of the sad way in which patients die alone, while the nurses "pass up and down the wards throwing smiles to students," must sadden all nurses who have the welfare of the sick at heart, and who know how much can be done to alleviate inevitable suffering, and to smooth the rough places in the valley of the shadow of death.

One finds here the value of international intercourse. Dr. Blatin's knowledge of English hospitals leads him to assert "In an English hospital no patient ever dies alone. A nurse is detailed for special duty in every moribund case. He is assured of having up to the last moment of his life, some one to help to

mitigate his final sufferings," and the writer desires the same attention for his own countrymen and country women in their last hours.

To an English nurse to render such services is a matter of course, it would seem inhuman to her to do otherwise, but evidently her French colleague does not regard things in this light. Surely here again the value of international intercourse is indicated. Could not we, by conferring with our French sisters, compare methods with them, and show them wherein ours differ from theirs, and how, where their organisation and system of work are defective, they can be best amended? It appears to me that here is a practical way in which we might advance the welfare of the sick in France, a country for which many of us have a warm admiration.—I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,
COSMOPOLITAN.

Comments and Replies.

Miss S. J. B., Street.—The Queen's Nurses' Magazine may be obtained through the editor, Clondeboye, co. Down, Ireland.

Midwife, Birmingham.—Up to March 31st next a midwife can claim certification by the Central Midwives' Board provided she holds a certificate from certain recognised institutions (one of these being the London Obstetrical Society), or produces evidence satisfactory to the Board that at the passing of the Act she has been for at least one year in *bond fide* practice as a midwife and bears a good character. After this date admission to the Roll of Midwives can be obtained only after passing the examination instituted by the Central Midwives' Board. The fee for registration at the present time is 10s. We should advise you to apply for registration forthwith. The offices of the Board are at 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall.

Miss P. S., Manchester.—If you desire to obtain back numbers of this Journal you should lose no time in doing so, as some of the numbers are getting very scarce. Apply to the Manager, 11, Adam Street, Strand.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR 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.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses 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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