

either more land should be procured by the "King's" Committee, or those extensive medical buildings omitted. It will be a terrible mistake if the housing of the nursing staff is made a secondary consideration.

I am, yours sincerely,
TRAINED AT "KING'S."

NURSES' RATIONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many nurses will, I feel sure, agree with your remarks on the subject of "Nurses' Rations." Those of us who come from homes where economy is necessary cannot fail to see that a much larger amount is spent in many hospitals on the feeding of probationers than has ever been the case in their lives before. On the other hand, their food is often not so palatable. The reason I take to be, that painstaking in details is the secret of both good house-keeping and good cooking, and this is often not appreciated where large numbers are dealt with. I wish it were.

Yours faithfully,
A MERE PRO.

THE AFFILIATION OF SPECIAL HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—“Co-operation is the order of the day, and why not in the training of nurses?” Miss Todd makes many good suggestions. Special hospitals are now so highly organised and indispensable to the public, that a course of practical work in many of them would be most valuable to nurses. There is no hospital in this country which is self-contained as far as disease goes, although the London is setting a good example in adding maternity wards to its general work. These, no doubt, will be made, as the Private Nursing Department is, highly profitable to the institution, as presumably nurses will be charged for training in this special branch. Why not? We nurses cannot expect much longer to get all this varied professional education in return for labour. The large general and county hospitals should be the Mother Houses of Nursing, and the special hospitals in the vicinity should be affiliated to them. Why not a Local Central Committee, composed of delegates from the Committees of each, with a good sprinkling of Matrons, which would organise the whole system to meet the needs of hospitals and nurses alike? At present all these institutions consider themselves the centre of the hospital universe, and no end of energy evaporates without result. What is required is co-operation.

Yours faithfully,
SPECIAL HOSPITAL SISTER.

AN INTERESTING SUGGESTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The real book-worm is seldom a prolific writer, but if I understand the "Interesting Suggestion" of "E. S. M." aright, she just wants those who read to save up a few tit-bits and hand them on. I may say that her letter incited me to get "Napoleon: the First Phase," and greatly am I indebted to her for drawing my attention to it—it is entrancing.

I wonder if it is sufficiently known amongst my fellow-readers of your indispensable Journal that a series of historical biographies has been initiated by a Toronto firm of publishers under the title of "The

Makers of Canada," which should surely be read by every imperially-minded stay-at-home. There are to be twenty volumes in all, and, as a reviewer in the *Times* writes, in giving publicity to the life of Sir Frederick Haldimand, by Jean N. McIlwraith:—

"When the twenty volumes prescribed are brought to a conclusion, the reader will be furnished with a survey of Canadian history passing from the early, romantic period, when French nobles in bracadé and high heels picnicked out amid rapids and pine forests peopled by wild Iroquois and *coureurs de bois*, down to the comparatively prosaic period of confederation and modern colonial expansion. The French *régime* is represented by the lives of Champlain, Laval, and Frontenac; the English conquest by the lives of Wolfe and Montcalm, whose antagonism has received so much elucidation of late from the researches of Mr. Doughty and their utilisation by Major Wood in his valuable work on 'The Fight for Canada.' No fewer than six biographies illustrate the period of the establishment of responsible government grouped round the central life of Lord Elgin, represented among the 'Makers of Canada' by a contribution from the trained pen of the late Sir John Bourinot."

This useful Haldimand I feel sure, dear Madam, would be too much of an opportunist for your taste, as his self revelation in a paper of resolutions which he jotted down in his journal proves. Read this "precious gem":—

"To give protection and to have much regard for the orders and religious houses; to be always polite and obliging, but also to be always watchful; not to be adopted by either party; to ask time to consider things of any importance . . . not to become heated in conversation, rather to leave the room under any pretext, as was the case with a bishop who prayed in order to give time for his blood to cool; to make known to the Catholic clergy the danger that their religion will be in if the rebels, and especially the Bostonnais, gain the upper hand."

Sir Frederick Haldimand was, of course, received at Court, painted by Sir Joshua, and made ecstatically happy with a red riband. His motto and shield may still be seen in commemorative brass in Henry VII.'s Chapel.—Yours truly,

HISTORIOUS.

THE MINUTE MAN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a guest at the luncheon of the American Women in London, conversation turned on the War of Independence. There were several allusions to the "Minute Man." I did not care to expose my ignorance by asking: "What is a Minute Man?" But what was he?

A WOMAN JOURNALIST.

[I ask you, gentle reader, how is one to answer such a question in an editorial note? Give silence for seven days, and one might approach a subject so sublime. The Minute Man! What was he? In lexicon parlance—a Massachusetts volunteer of 1775, ready to fight King George's troops at a *minute's notice*. Lexington, Concord, Dorchester Heights, Charlestown, Bunker Hill—there fought the minute men. Washington met them at Cambridge, and under the historic elm drew his sword and took command of the soldiers gathered there. They were "minute men," no longer called hastily together to resist invasion, but the American

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