

Not that English Schools in South Africa are remiss. The schools in charge of Lady Principals most certainly do good national work in inculcating some ideal of life into the children, and the Convent-schools are beyond compare.

Men, of course, take a more business view of their work, and they prepare their scholars well for examination.

But the home influence the children are subject to, with its easy haphazard moral training, and the ever-constant influence of the lazy, sensual native will have to be counteracted if South Africans are ever to take their place as a people of national importance.

Colonials are teachable, but they have much to learn of order, of reticence and delicacy from the older countries.

If I were asked to describe African Colonials in sweeping terms (and I fear I am apt so to describe) I should say that the women were the most respectable I have ever lived amongst, but that they have no morality. And the men seem to be equally respectable, but they have no sense of honour. And I believe it would be as unfair to blame either sex for its deficiency as it would be to blame persons for being colour-blind.

At the same time these Colonials are the most agreeable, good-tempered people one can meet, and in every way hospitable and kind. They are clever, and have all the Scotch shrewdness and Dutch "slimness" you can graft on to a race; the women especially can buy and sell any woman from the old country in a business transaction, or in any matter touching her personal interests.

But they are a new people, with no subtlety nor refinement. They know nothing of the standards of honourable conduct we claim as our birthright. They ridicule our conscientiousness, and the moral scruples that interfere with our physical content, and tend to spoil our tempers. And although they are too good-natured to say it openly it is easy to get them to admit they think us a bit mad when we grow enthusiastic over Religion, Romance and Art or Beauty. These things, they say, have their place in fiction and in magazine articles, but the business of life is to make money, and to be comfortable and respectable.

There are, likewise, many persons at home who have similar views, but I would take the liberty of saying that such are not desirable as settlers in South Africa.

I lay myself open to the charge of prejudice, but nevertheless I feel convinced that to make African Colonials a perfect people by the fusion of nationalities, they do not need more Scotch nor Australians, but rather English people with their "odd" enthusiasms, and Irish, especially Irish, with feeling and idealism, and also Spaniards with chivalry and courtesy—all these old-world qualities to modify the Colonial thorough innate materialism.

Then, perhaps, Australia might send out even a few of her best.

HENRIETTA KENEALY.

[This summary of the condition of things in South Africa by one who has spent years of her life there, and possesses the gift of recording her observations, will be received with interest.—ED.]

#### RE TESTIMONIALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in the letter which you published from a correspondent on the subject of testimonials. May I give you some experience of my own on the subject?

When I was applying to be taken as a probationer at a metropolitan hospital I asked a doctor in the country town where I lived to give me a certificate of good health. He said "Certainly," wrote it and handed it to me. He added, as he did so, "I suppose you are all right, by the way?"

When I left the hospital at the conclusion of my training I carried away testimonials from some of the most notable surgeons and physicians in London. Really they barely knew me by sight, but they kindly inquired as to my capacities from various Ward Sisters (very wise of them, too), and their subsequent testimonials were most impressive.

When, again, I was leaving a Matron's post I asked some of the staff there who really did know me and my work for testimonials. Accompanying their most flattering testimonials I had more than one letter couched in these terms:—"I wish you weren't going; I hope this is what you want, if it isn't please add anything you like!" They were most kind. But of what value are such testimonials?

MATRON.

#### 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 advt. page vi., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. 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. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

##### 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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