

[The moral of Matron's letter was that, as both doctors and nurses will freely admit, testimonials as to the work of the rank and file of nurses are of most value when given by their superior nursing officers. She also emphasised the wisdom of the medical men concerned in consulting these officers before appending their names to the testimonials referred to.—Ed.]

NURSE SNOB.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have never met "Nurse Snob" of the type described in your last issue, but I must own I have met her in another variety in hospital wards. This one endeavours to assert her superiority by telling you impressively that she is not obliged to work. She has only taken up nursing because it is dull at home; she excuses her slovenly sweeping and dusting on the ground that "the maids always did that kind of thing, she was never brought up to it," and lastly, she will decline to do some necessary bit of work on the ground, in so many words, that she "is a lady." One straightway "places" her, if one has not done so before. She is not a pleasant type, but she is a very real one. I expect most of your readers have met her at one time or another.

Yours truly,
A PLAIN PERSON.

A SOLUTION OF A PUZZLE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In her interesting article "On Nurses" in your recent issue—evidently from the point of view of the looker-on—Miss Jessie Harvey writes:—"This is the puzzle to me: Nurses are face to face continually with the darkest tragedies of human life, yet they are the happiest women living." Is not one reason to be found in the old truism, "If I lose myself I find myself." A nurse who is devoting herself all day (or night) to the care of others has little time to think of herself, and selfishness and too much thought of self are at the bottom of most of the unhappiness in the world, both for oneself and others. This can be demonstrated beyond doubt by anyone who will think out the question.

Again, the fact that we are face to face with tragedy so often, makes us thankful for our own mercies. Who can see acute suffering and not be consciously thankful for good health? Who can see the dreary days passed by many leisured people and the fancied ailments which have their origin in being "bored to death" and not be glad that one has a place among the workers of the world, even if that work sometimes is exacting in its demands upon one?

Lastly, our work is absorbing, because of its intense human interest. We are not concerned with abstractions, but with the vital things of life.

Further, our patients call out the protective, the maternal instincts, which are latent in every true woman. Thus, whether our work takes us into the well-ordered wards of a hospital, into new scenes, and into contact with many interesting people as in private nursing, into the homes of the poor, everything is interesting, educative, satisfying. Why should we not be happy? For myself, I am:—

LÆTUS SORTE MÆA.

Comments and Replies.

Provincial Matron.—We have never known a League founded which has not received cordial support from the certificated nurses of the school concerned, we think you need have no doubt whatever upon that score. We should advise you to write to the Hon. Secretaries of the Leagues already founded, and ask for copies of their rules. Then call a meeting of the nurses, adopt a constitution, and elect the officers.

Isolation.—Dr. J. Priestley states that persons suffering from pulmonary phthisis may be divided roughly into two classes: (1) Those in the primary stage of the disease which is curable, and not specially infectious; and (2) those in the chronic stage of the disease which is incurable, and very infectious. He thinks that in the primary stage hospitals are required wherein the patients may be treated with a view to cure, and for those in the chronic stage, refuges wherein the patients may be isolated so as to be prevented from spreading the disease to others.

Anxious Mother.—In days when the work of midwives was under no controlling authority, and no rules were laid down for their guidance, it not infrequently happened that a midwife operated on a so-called tongue-tied baby, a dangerous and for the most part an uncalled for proceeding. The child should always be taken to a doctor.

Nurse Olive.—We can cordially recommend Miss Netta Stewart's book on "Gynaecological Nursing."

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 iii., 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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)