

POOR DEARS!

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

DEAR MADAM,—A few words you let drop at a recent meeting that "nursing education had as yet received no consideration whatever from the mothers of our nurses" set me thinking. How true! We hear of maternal devotion on all sides, and the domesticated mother is extolled in the attempted depreciation of the "new woman," usually single and a worker, and yet who ever heard of a nurse's mother acquainting herself with the curriculum of the nursing school where her daughter works—or, indeed, offering any suggestion to those responsible for it. Of course, there are several reasons for this:—(1) Probationers are usually daughters of needy parents, who are only too thankful to hospital authorities for keeping and training them for nothing. (2) The middle-class woman is about the most ignorant member of the community, and is not capable of forming an opinion about a nurse's education which should include the elements of many subjects of which she does not know the meaning.

A friend of mine, a bright intelligent girl, was most anxious to enter a hospital for training and her mother's opinion was significant.

"Oh! don't become a nurse," she said. "Any housemaid can do that, and who will marry you if you touch nasty, dirty, abscesses!"

No! it is not to the domesticated mothers of our girls that we owe the wonderful progress made in the management of our nursing schools; but to the intelligent "new women," who in the past violated the proprieties by entering hospitals, realised their deficiencies and reformed them. It is the same about State Registration, which is primarily an educational question. It is not the mothers who have asked for any betterment in the status for their daughters, but the public spirited Matrons, and nurses themselves. I fear we have not much to hope for from mothers—poor dears!

Yours sincerely,
S. M. C.

[Yes, they are just—poor dears! Moreover, the law gives them no authority over their own children.—Ed.]

THE BLACK PLAGUE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Would it be possible to find out what part American nurses are taking in the work which is now being quietly organised in the States, to try and mitigate the horrors of the Black Plague? Perhaps Miss Dock, to whom we owe such a deep debt of gratitude already, will in her next letter give us some information on that point. No one can work amongst the poor without realising its terrible ravages, and from experience as an Army Reserve Sister, it seems wicked to ignore conditions as they are. Many thanks for article on Military Nursing. Surely, no one could contemplate a return to former futile methods; South Africa at least proved the urgent need of Army Nursing reform.

Yours truly,
A. N. S. R.

Comments and Replies.

Member of the Provisional Committee.—The report of the Nurses' Conversazione to which you allude was both ill-natured and incorrect. No lady doctor "assisted" the Hon. Secretary to receive the guests; a correct list of hostesses appeared in this journal on June 23rd. Dr. Bedford Fenwick was not "one of the four brave men" present, because owing to a professional engagement he was unable to be present at all. The policy of the lay nursing press of attempting to sow dissension amongst self-governing societies of trained nurses has been tried and failed; the remedy is obvious.

Maternity Nurse, Birmingham.—Apply to the Secretary, Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster. The result of the recent examinations appears in this issue.

Sister H. D. (Lynton).—If you will let the Manager, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., know what kind of book you require, he will do what he can to procure it for you. Kirke's Handbook of Physiology is about the best advanced book on the subject. Foster and Shore's Physiology for beginners is about the best of its kind. It would be difficult to say the price of a second-hand copy of either book.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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.

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 iv., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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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