

more representative one, though we had before us, in print, prepared by Mrs. Fenwick, the objects of the proposed Association. Either the next day or the day after that Mrs. Fenwick came to the Chelsea Infirmary (where I was then Matron) and drew up in her own hand the provisional draft rules for the new Association and also an Address to be submitted to the meeting on December 7th. Throughout, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was the inspiring spirit of the new movement—the co-operation of British Nurses into a Professional Association. The ladies connected with the Hospitals' Association, notably Mrs. Wardroper and Miss Vincent, showed themselves openly and uncompromisingly hostile to the new Society. The founding of the B.N.A. may be ancient history now, but there is no reason why it should not be correct history.

Yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT, Matron.

Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

[Miss Mollett's statement as to the founding of the British Nurses' Association is absolutely correct, and we have carefully preserved, and have in our possession, the documents to which she alludes. Valuable memoranda, which for ever settle the question of who conceived and inaugurated the British Nurses' Association in 1887, are to be utilised by Miss Nutting and Miss Dock in the second volume of their great work "The History of Nursing," a large portion of which will naturally be devoted to the organisation of nursing in the various countries. The correction of Mrs. Tooley's mischievous misrepresentations with regard to this and other matters may therefore safely be left in these skilled professional hands. In criticising Mrs. Tooley's fanciful history of nursing, further allusion is made to this matter in this week's issue.—Ed.]

THE TRAGEDY AND COMEDY OF WAR HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Since you have pointed out in your foot-note the gist of my book, I feel I need not reply to X. Y. Z.'s letter, though I am at a loss to understand what sex has to do with it.

I should have thought that since sick nursing and not red-tapeism is a woman's essential province, it was obviously her duty to protest against ignorant men being sent as nurses, to assist, or, in fact, rule the destinies of, men stricken with fever, or critically wounded in the fight.

X.Y.Z. belongs to a type who think more of a system they happen to belong to than of the poor sick who come under its applications, but I fear my sympathies are with those who so grievously suffered from the crass ignorance of men who were sent from other regiments because they were useless. It does not occur to her when she takes the milk question as a sample of my want of womanhood that the one and only thing to have done when it arrived was to boil it. It speaks little for the "influence" Army Sisters exercised on the orderlies when they always informed me it was not "Army system" to make the beds, or wash the patients, even when their temperatures ranged from 103 degs. to 107 degs.

This kind of thing is not a "personal" matter, and I should strongly advise X. Y. Z. as far as the old system is concerned to let the dead bury its dead!

I fear I re-echo the experiences of most trained civilian nurses, and certainly all those who were sick during the war, and though it is not pleasant to see past deficiencies and their result, it is anyway salutary—"lest we forget—lest we forget."

I can only assure you that I have erred rather on the side of under-statement than over-statement; in fact I omitted from the letters much that I had written when the waves and heat of indignation and horror were upon me.

If I had told others' experience as well as my own, "X.Y.Z." might have had some cause to *weep*, and not complain about a rotten system that slayed the individual not only physically but mentally and morally. Let us only hope that the R.A.M.C. are not putting a new piece into an old garment and so making the rent worse.

Yours faithfully,

SISTER X.

Three Prize Competitions.

The Editor offers the following prizes:—

No. 1. PRACTICAL NURSING ARTICLE.

A prize of £5 5s. for the best article on a Practical Nursing Subject, containing 1,500 to 1,600 words, with illustrations, of which photographs or drawings must be enclosed. Papers competing for this prize must be received by the Editor not later than Saturday, December 29th, 1906. The article gaining the prize and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will appear early in the New Year.

No. 2. PUZZLE COMPETITION.

Details will be found on page viii.

No. 3. A PARAGRAPH OF PRACTICAL NURSING INTEREST.

A prize of 10s. for the best paragraph, on a postcard, of practical nursing interest. See our weekly "Practical Points" column. Postcards competing for this prize must reach the Editor not later than Saturday, Jan. 5th, 1907. The paragraph gaining the prize, and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will be published on Saturday, Jan. 12th.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING COMPETITIONS 1 AND 3.

Each competitor for No. 1 Prize must enclose with his or her article or paragraph a sealed envelope, outside which is written the title of the contents only, and inside the title of the contents with the author's full name and address. The covering envelope in the case of Competition 1, and the postcard in Competition 3, should bear the words "Prize Competition."

The Editor reserves to herself the right to publish any of the articles or paragraphs received for the competition. In such event payment will be made at the current rate; such article or paragraph to become the property and copyright of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

All competitions must be addressed to the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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