

to find out what she can do indirectly to raise the standard of life amongst the poor during her visits. This is most true, but I venture to think that in another direction also the nurse has much in her own hands. I succeeded a nurse in a small country place where, according to her, there was "nothing to do." I can only say that during the whole time I held the post I had my hands full, and I think that my predecessor had nothing to do, because she did not recognise the work that lay to her hand, and because she discouraged the people from sending to her for what she called "trivial ailments." Naturally, they got out of the way of sending at all. Experience leads me to believe that, provided a district nurse is willing to work, wherever she is located there is work in plenty for her to do.

Yours faithfully,

DISTRICT NURSE.

HELP FOR THE SICK POOR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I cannot refrain from a word of thanks to you for the genial kindly reference to our assistance occasionally rendered to the good work of the Nurses of the L.C.C. Education Committee.

I can testify from personal knowledge of the real good these devoted public servants render to the community.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN KIRK.

Ragged School Union and Shaftesbury Society.

A WICKED LAW.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It has been most amusing to watch the capital which has been made out of the case of Miss Dora Thewlis, who was arrested in connection with the Suffragette raid on the House of Commons. So much has been said of her tender years (age 17); much has also been said against those supposed to be responsible for inducing her to leave home.

The magistrate said she should be with her mother, so it is reported. This sounds so very kind and thoughtful, but, oddly enough, they all seem to have forgotten a few important facts. First, by our present men-made laws, a girl of 16 years may dispose of her person: i.e., the age of consent is still only 16. She may also marry (with her parents' consent), and take upon herself the duties and responsibilities of maternity—become a married woman—whilst she is still under the age of 18. Under such laws is it logical to allow a girl to consent to her own ruin at 16, and yet to suppose that she is not to know or realise the inequalities of the sexes? Does it not seem too absurd to think that a young girl may marry, and yet she is not supposed to know that men are legally in every way better treated than women? It would be most interesting to know if all those who have been so keen about this case are as keenly interested and are making strenuous efforts to get these iniquitous laws altered. I throw not! Until these laws are removed and the age of consent and marriage be made at least 18,

I think it would be wiser not to make such a fuss about the age of anyone who may choose to help in a just cause.

I am, yours faithfully,

Ebford, S. Devon.

MARY BURR.

Comments and Replies.

Provincial Matron.—You could not do better than use "Practical Nursing," by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Dr. Herbert Cuff, as a text book for your probationers. It is published by William Blackwood and Sons, London and Edinburgh.

Enquirer.—Ward Sisters should be selected not only because they are good nurses and ward managers, but because they have the gift of imparting knowledge. An important part of their work is the teaching of probationers, and, whatever other qualifications a nurse may have, if she has not given evidence of a capacity to teach, she should not be selected as a Sister.

NOTICE.

Will "Sister Marie" send her address to the Editor. It has been mislaid.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

A Lady Lecturer

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