

cial service, there is no doubt that they would indignantly resent the insult, and the nurse would be relegated to her proper position. The other reason urged in justification of their existence, that they undertake domestic duties in the houses of their patients that a highly trained nurse would not do, is also very absurd. If their districts are so widely scattered and the distances between their patients long, how is it possible for them to have the time to do any appreciable amount of such work in their patients' homes? A report from the districts of this part of their work would be interesting. Another aspect of the question is the grave injustice inflicted on the young women who are induced to go into the Home for training in ignorance of the fact that the training is only partial, and quite inadequate to qualify them as skilled nurses. In many instances pupils have joined the Home under the impression that the training is all that a nurse's training should be, and have only been disillusioned too late, after they had bound themselves to put in their period of training, and gone into residence in the Home. Your remarks about philanthropists setting up a net of inferior nursing standards for the poor and ignorant all over the country, are very appropriate and to the point. But, is it philanthropy? In the case of the Govan Home the promoters are a number of philanthropic ladies connected with certain country districts, who have established the Home for the turning out of inferiorly trained nurses in the shortest possible time, and with as little expense as possible for the supply of these and other districts. But, besides these philanthropists there are a number of medical men connected with the Home as members of the Executive Committee, and as the holders of honorary posts. That they should lend their support to such an institution has been a surprise to all their colleagues in the profession who have given the matter consideration. They are all connected with other training institutions, such as the Glasgow Royal and Western Infirmaries, reputed for the thoroughness of their nurses' training, and ought, therefore, to be among the last to do anything detrimental, either actively or passively, to the nursing profession, or to be participants in any deliberate attempt, as in this case, to lower the standard of efficiency. As Miss Stevenson has indicated, the real remedy is State Registration of Nurses, but till this has been attained, it is the duty of all concerned to do their utmost to maintain the standard of training at its highest.

I am, Madam, yours, etc.,

FORBES BROWN, M.B.

Govan Medical Association,
August, 1907.

[The questions raised in the above letters are most important and interesting, and we shall be glad to hear the views of our readers on the subject. The mistake of Associations which send women to do useful work in the homes of the poor, after a few months' training, is, in our opinion, in calling them nurses. They may be midwives;

they may be cottage helps; but they cannot be regarded as nurses. Sir Victor Horsley, in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on State Registration of Nurses, said: "As regards what you mean by nursing, if you put a nurse in nursing care of a case you are putting a heavy responsibility upon her, of seeing, for instance, some dangerous change in the patient." It is to fit them for the responsibility of continuously caring for patients who are dangerously ill that we claim a thorough education in nursing is necessary for those who desire to be regarded as trained nurses.—[Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Enquirer.—You would find a year's training in a fever hospital of great use to you throughout your nursing career. We should certainly advise you to obtain it, if possible.

District Nurse.—The greater attention which is now being paid to the health of school children points plainly to the fact that children who in former days would have been considered dull, stupid, mischievous, or idle, are in reality suffering from defects which require medical treatment. It is good work to bring these defects to the notice of the right authorities.

Notices.

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 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.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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 an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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