

be with you." In the fulfilment of that promise He can endue each one of us with His power.

Yours very sincerely,

RHODA METHERELL.

Hotel de la Forêt, Leysin,

[The point of the article referred to was that nurses who undertake hospital work in connection with foreign missions should realise that their missionary work lies to their hand, side by side with their nursing work; that in the wards, and in visiting out-patients, they have ample opportunity for teaching and exemplifying the principles of Christianity. Further, that it is a mistake to regard their nursing work as other than definite missionary work; and that they cannot undertake regular outside classes at fixed hours with justice to the nursing work they have undertaken. That, primarily, is their share in the division of labour of the work of the mission as a whole.—Ed.]

#### COTTAGE NURSES TRAINING HOME, GOVAN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am reluctant to trouble you once more, but Dr. Forbes Brown's letter in your issue of October 5th can hardly be left without a few words in reply.

The greater part of that letter is directed against me, for what he appears to imagine I have said, but which, had he read my letter more carefully, he would have seen that I did not say. I therefore pass on to the end of his letter, where he asserts that fully-trained nurses "would" perform "much more efficiently" all the duties now performed by partially-trained nurses, including living in the patients' cottages and doing domestic work there.

May I ask him on what ground he makes this assertion? Has he any evidence from fully-trained nurses, or others, who have a thorough personal knowledge of the circumstances? I hope he will allow me to hold my own opinion until such evidence is forthcoming.

As to the doctrine laid down in the last sentence of his letter, if he carries it to its logical conclusion it leads him to the furthest extreme of socialism, and raises questions which cannot be discussed here, and which seem to me to have very little practical bearing on the matter.

In conclusion, may I say that Dr. Forbes Brown's method of controversy is not likely to commend itself to those he wishes to convince. He insinuates that medical men are sycophants in relation to the "important personages" in their districts, and that the life of a nurse living in the cottage of her patient is hardly compatible with respectability. Medical men are competent to defend themselves (if, indeed, they think it worth while), but in justice to the many cottage nurses with whom I have come in contact, and to the families of their patients, may I be allowed to say that I think that such an insinuation ought never to have been made.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

ALICE BALFOUR.

Whittinghame, Prestonkirk.

#### COTTAGE NURSES OR HELPS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As you have given us one more chance of speaking now or holding our peace for ever, may I have space in this week's columns to say a word on the correspondence which has taken place on this question? I have already had a quiet talk with Mr. Holland *re* State Registration. Whether I converted his inward soul or not I cannot tell, but I had the satisfaction of feeling that he had heard my side of the question. I wish now I could have a quiet talk with Miss Balfour, who has signed his manifesto, and who still believes that the half-trained woman is doing a good work. Not for a moment do I doubt her love for the poor, and for the sick poor, for her life is a testimony in itself. Nor do I agree with my valued friend, Miss Kent, who seems to think that State Registration will make conscientious nurses, and prevent probationers from forgetting their patients. My standpoint is this:—Nursing has undergone as great an evolution as warfare. There was a time when the handsome, dashing son of the family bought his commission (and his promotion), wore scarlet and gold, white kid gloves, and patent-leather boots, and fought for his country. He now passes exams., wears khaki, and works for his promotion. Fighting has become a science, as was seen during the Russo-Japanese war. There was a time also when Royalties wore sackcloth and ashes, and did their penances by nursing the sick. St. Teresa spent six weeks every year at a hospital, sleeping on a stone bed and pillow, and smelling the foul wounds of the patients. Let us hope it saved her soul; but what good she did the wounds of the poor patients had better be left unsaid. This, then, is our position as nurses of the present day. We are engaged in a warfare against disease. Our work is as much preventive as it is palliative; our fight must be based on scientific principles. There need be no question of social status or pedigree; the work is open to all who have a love for it. But those women who undertake the responsible duties of a nurse must be educated women, and their education in nursing must be based on accurate instruction in the principles which underlie their work. The untold harm the semi-trained women do, as well as the midwives who have had no other training when placed in the position of nurses, only we nurses and the doctors know. We have seen the results of their work, and the gynæcological wards of our hospitals are full of the consequences of their limited knowledge. I feel certain that neither the Peersesses nor the wives and daughters of the landed gentry of Great Britain have realised the truth of our statements, or they would not countenance the half-trained women. They are saints, like St. Teresa, but their charity is a mistaken one, and directed along wrong lines. Cleaning cottages and waiting on women is one work, and helping the doctors and being their collaborators in carrying out their orders loyally and scientifically is another and totally different thing.

Yours truly,

E. R. WORTABET.

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