

in London; but now there are branches in Nottingham, Derby, Sunderland, Edinburgh, etc. We are anxious to extend the work, especially in the hospitals and infirmaries of the larger towns. Will all doctors, matrons, nurses, or any who are interested in work of this kind, write for further particulars to

KATHLEEN MILLER }
H. Y. RICHARDSON } Secs.

75, Hallam Street,
Great Portland Street, W.

P.S.—The League now numbers 573 members, of whom 169 are intending to become foreign missionaries, 40 being now in the field, or sailing this autumn.

PERSONAL THANKS.

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

MADAM,—As one who happened to be in the unfortunate railway accident, I should like to express my personal thanks to the authorities of the Salop Infirmary.

I have never seen better continuous attention than was given by the whole hospital staff from the time of the accident to between 8 and 9 at night for some 18 hours. Miss Clack (acting-matron) and nursing staff, meeting every demand and request cheerfully, with a smile; and the medical officers giving unremitting attention. As an old medical practitioner, and one who has had charge of a large hospital, I feel that I am bound to express my feelings of satisfaction at the work done by the Salop Infirmary staff.

Yours faithfully,

J. HANNIBAL THOMAS,

Surgeon and Justice of the Peace,

Barrow-in-Furness.

COTTAGE NURSES TRAINING HOME,
GOVAN.

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

MADAM,—In the correspondence regarding this Home, one important aspect of the question has hardly emerged.

Govan is a burgh with a population not far short of 100,000, almost entirely dependent upon the shipbuilding industry, and with a large proportion of its inhabitants poorly housed, and often living on the verge of misery. To meet the requirements of this population in general nursing there are resident in Govan, outside the Cottage Nurses' Training Home, two Jubilee Nurses. Personally and professionally these are admirable, but "what are they among so many?"

Over four years ago the Cottage Nurses' Training Home was instituted, on the initiative of the Duchess of Montrose, known throughout the West of Scotland for her interest in every charitable and benevolent work. The rapid success of the new institution proved that there was scope and need for its operations; and I do not hesitate to say that most of the medical men in Govan employed the Cottage Nurses, and found them of great service. By and bye, however, the administration of the Home gave cause of complaint to the medical men, by in effect putting the Cottage Nurses into competition with them, especially in

midwifery. The representations of the Govan doctors were brought before the Board of the Home; and, after a conference between a deputation from the Govan Medical Association and the medical members of the Board, a set of regulations for the guidance of the Matron of the Home was drawn up. If these regulations were adhered to, there should be no conflict between the interests of the medical men and the Home. It is asserted by the Govan Medical Association that the regulations are not even now observed by the Cottage Nurses; and instances of alleged breach of the rules are given. The matter is now under consideration by the local branch of the British Medical Association, whose pronouncement will be received with interest.

The letters of the Hon. Secretary of the Govan Medical Association (of which I am a member) proceed on the assumption that the training of the Cottage Nurses is unsatisfactory and inefficient; and that its effect is to produce a class of at best half-trained women, who enter into competition with fully trained nurses. Both propositions seem to me open to question. I cannot speak from personal knowledge of the details of training in the Home; but the Matron, herself holding the certificate of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, is wholly devoted to her work, and the pupil nurses have daily systematic training in nursing within the Home, in addition to practical work, under supervision as far as may be, outside.

In addition, twelve pupil nurses proceed for training every year to the Elder Cottage Hospital, where each remains two months in the medical, and the same time in the surgical wards. The Hospital, provided and endowed by Govan's great benefactress, the late Mrs. John Elder, LL.D., contains 15 beds, and is almost unique among hospitals of its size for the completeness of its equipment. The pupil nurses work there under a Matron and three Charge Nurses, who are all fully trained, and they receive regular systematic and clinical training in nursing. On the surgical side they see the latest methods of aseptic surgery in operation. In the medical wards I have found them generally intelligent, kindly towards the patient, keen to learn, and observant. It is surprising to note how much they acquire within four months of the principles that underlie all good nursing. They afterwards complete their year's training in the Cottage Nurses' Training Home. In private work I have frequently employed Cottage Nurses in cases where cost was a consideration, and have always been satisfied with them. I do not remember to have heard a patient complain of them, but many have spoken in warm approbation.

It is conceivable that a Cottage Nurse, who, after completing three years' probation, has received her certificate, may enter into competition with hospital-trained nurses. In such a contest, the merit of the individual as a nurse, and not the manner of her training, ought surely to be the decisive factor. But here in Govan, during the Cottage Nurse's probation, such competition should hardly arise. They serve a different class,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)