

within the means of suffering humanity—rich and poor. The lowering of district nursing standards during the past decade—by county nursing associations—cannot be defended. Partially-trained nurses are supplied to the poor because they are cheap. Let us be frank in dealing with this question. The committees which control them are people of leisure, usually with no expert knowledge, the majority of the women on which have never been compelled to earn a penny in their lives. In consequence the salaries paid to Cottage Nurses are scandalously low, and to systematically create a class of inefficiently trained women workers, who are paid scarcely a living wage, from which they cannot possibly provide for sickness and old age, is economically unsound, and, in our opinion, indefensible.—[Ed.]

THE NURSES' HOSTEL COMPANY, LTD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should be much obliged if you would kindly allow the enclosed letter to appear in the columns of your valuable journal. I am informed by one who was present at the meeting of the shareholders of the Nurses' Hostel Co., Ltd., that my letter to the Chairman was not read, in spite of my having sent it in a registered letter with the request that it should be read. I am given to understand that the reason my letter was not read was, "it would only lead to controversy." In the interests of the unfortunate shareholders I should be grateful if you would kindly give publicity to the affair.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

I. GRACE STEUART.

10, Brunswick Square, Brighton,

To the Chairman, the Nurses' Hostel Co., Ltd.

DEAR SIR,—It is a surprise and great inconvenience to many shareholders in the Hostel Co., Ltd., to find no dividend is to be paid this year. Surely the congratulations in the report on the efficiency of the present management are premature, the result of the said management being so disastrous. On the principle of a naughty child who invariably tries to shift the blame of his own wrong-doing, it is sought to lay the blame on a lady who was appointed superintendent last year, and allowed to retain office three weeks. Surely, Sir, no sane person could attribute the blame for the present state of affairs to any but the present management. Would it not be wiser to take steps to realise on the South Block, pay off those shareholders who desire to sell their shares, and, in the interest of those who prefer to leave their money in the Hostel Co., to make a radical change in the management.

I request, Sir, this letter may be read at the meeting of the shareholders on the 25th inst.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

I. GRACE STEUART.

10, Brunswick Square, Brighton,

[By suppressing this letter, these directors are following in the footsteps of the R.B.N.A.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Fever Nurse.—The best natural disinfectant sunshine; best germ disinfectant, advertised in our columns; best physical disinfectant, soap; best moral disinfectant, publicity.

District Nurse.—Old people should be allowed to sit up or get out of bed as soon after operation as possible in order to avoid post-operative lung complications.

Sister Marie.—In sending articles with a view to insertion in this journal it is desirable, but not essential, that they should be typed. If not, they should be very plainly written.

Nurse S. J. Bradley.—We have received from you one coupon in connection with the prize competitions, dated October 12th. Please note that all the coupons for the month should be sent in together, and should be posted not later than the last Saturday of each month.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

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.

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.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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