

her evil calling under the cloak of the noblest of professions.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

TRAINED NURSE.

#### FLOGGING IN PRISONS.

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

MADAM,—The question of flogging for prison offences is well worthy of the attention of the public, and it is to be hoped that the interest aroused in it, owing to the recent "mutiny" and consequential floggings at Dartmoor Convict Prison, will lead to something practical being done when the Prison Vote comes up for consideration in Parliament.

We were assured that discipline could not be maintained in the Army and Navy without flogging. But we have dispensed with it, and discipline has been preserved notwithstanding. Female prisoners are as likely to break disciplinary rules as male prisoners, but flogging has been abolished in their case, and discipline is fully maintained.

The only offences for which a prisoner can at present be flogged (since 1893) are mutiny and gross personal violence to an officer. Would it not be better for the prisoners who commit criminal offences of this character to be tried and sentenced by our ordinary tribunals? Our criminal judges could not, of course, sentence such offenders to be flogged, which shows the injustice and inhumanity of the present system under which Visiting Justices sit in secret.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Humanitarian League.

#### WOMEN PHARMACISTS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I be permitted to comment on the article concerning women as dispensers in your Journal of February 8th?

It is a regrettable fact that there are institutions where persons holding the certificate of the Apothecaries' Society, or even with no certificate, are employed as dispensers, but it may be pointed out that, although such persons dispense many poisons during the day, they are not permitted, under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, to sell poisons or to keep a shop for dispensing them. Committees of hospitals and other governing bodies are recognising the fact that if it is unsafe for any person not registered as a chemist or druggist under the Pharmacy Act to sell or dispense poisons in a shop it is equally dangerous for such persons to handle poisons in a hospital, dispensary, or elsewhere, and so are, to an increasing extent, restricting their appointments to those registered under the Pharmacy Act. Under these circumstances it is becoming more and more difficult for those with only the Apothecaries' Society's certificate to obtain posts that yield even the meagre salary of £50 a year. Practically all the higher paid posts now go to those with the qualification of the Pharmaceutical Society.

For a woman to become registered as a chemist

she must be at least 21 years of age, must have had three years' training, and must then pass the "minor" examination of the Pharmaceutical Society. The latter is a thorough test of competency, and is by no means to be passed with the aid of "one text-book," and after only a six-month's training, such as is sufficient for the Apothecaries' Society. Women who wish to become dispensers should therefore reflect carefully before deciding on taking the examination of the latter society, as they will find themselves on an over-crowded labour market with insufficient training.

Yours faithfully,

G. E. BARLTOP,

Hon. Sec. of the Association  
of Women Pharmacists.

North-Eastern Hospital for Children,  
Hackney Road, N.E.

#### COMMENTS AND REPLIES.

A German Nurse, London.—Miss Ehrlicher, of the German Hospital in New York, writes in the *American Journal of Nursing*, in regard to nurses on steamships, as follows:—"So far as I know there are only two. These are in the employ of the Hamburg-American Company, on the steamers *Amerika* and *Kaiserin Augusta Victoria*. They are enrolled as members of the ship's crew, and have definite duties, such as being present in the gymnasium during ladies' hour, giving electric light baths, etc. They take their meals in the first-cabin dining-room, and are expected to spend their time among the first-cabin passengers. They have a definite salary, and when in port have perfect liberty, remaining on board ship or on land as they like. The Hamburg-American line engaged these two nurses directly from our registry. There are many nurses who take stewardess positions for the sake of the large fees, but I think it is safe to say that these are foreigners. These two nurses have had cases of pneumonia, appendicitis, delirium tremens, and insanity. They have been isolated with cases of measles, and have brought patients to hospitals in both ports. These have included first, second, and steerage passengers. I doubt if these positions will ever become popular, as steamship companies do not like to pay salaries. They expect the passengers to pay for services in tips. However, by starting in with the right kind of women for the place, we established it on a proper basis."

#### Notices.

##### 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.

##### OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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