

FIGHT FOR RIGHT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—If the Directory Bill becomes law how would it affect a trained nurse who declined to place her name, and thus her power of earning a living, at the mercy of the registrar who, according to the Bill, has the right to remove a name once on the Directory without the nurse having any power of protest?

Yours truly,

A MEMBER, BART'S LEAGUE.

[We do not believe for an instant that the House of Commons will sanction legislation on the lines proposed by Mr. Holland and Sir Henry Burdett, even if the Bill is read a second time in the House of Lords, because the medical profession are almost unanimously against a scheme which would render the organisation of nursing by the State ineffective. The British Medical Association is fully alive to the necessity of protecting the public against inefficient nurses, and granting a just measure of self-government to the nurses. Nothing could prove more forcibly how necessary State protection for nurses is than the fact that governors and members of the medical staffs of twenty London hospitals have privately drafted a measure which deprives the thousands of nurses in the three kingdoms of all personal responsibility.—Ed.]

TRAINED NURSES ON STEAMSHIPS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to your paragraph on page 249 of last week's issue *re* trained nurse on steamships, the Booth Line of steamers carry nurses, who are treated in every way as saloon or first class passengers. They have a deck state room and meals in the saloon with the passengers. They did not appear to me to be over-worked; in fact, the captain on one boat told me the nurse had not had a patient for six voyages. (His boat ran from Liverpool to Manaos on the Amazon.)

I was told that they were paid £6 6s. per month (but a passenger told me this—not the captain), which is not bad pay for the two nurses I met, one being over 50, the other young, but only able to work at sea, being too delicate for hospital or private work.

Yours truly,

MARY HARVEY.

DO DAILY FEES PAY?

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

DEAR MADAM,—Taken by themselves, I think daily fees do not pay. The nurse who charged £2 2s. for two nights was not so over-paid as appears on the surface, though she was, in my opinion, not much of a business woman. It is quite probable that while she was with the patient (who, after all, seems to have been more nervous than ill) she lost the chance of a case which might have lasted many weeks, besides giving the real satisfaction so dear to most nurses of having helped a really sick person back to health. Then between short cases there is generally loss of time, during which the nurse earns nothing, and has her board, etc., to pay for in addition. I do not think it wise to charge a whole week's fee for two nights, as it

is a mistake financially for a nurse to get the reputation of being expensive. Most of us owe a good deal for recommendations, etc., to our doctors, and it is often a relief to one if a nurse will watch a case one or two nights, at a moderate fee, though if the patient is not wealthy he might hesitate to put them to the cost of a whole week. The nurse who is willing to help her doctor in these ways will find he has many opportunities of helping her to more lucrative work. With regard to the 1s. 3d. for laundry, this was quite moderate. The nurse could not go to another case in the dress she had worn with an influenza patient. The cost of washing this, with her cap, aprons, and cuffs, would not leave much towards her underclothing. People have so little idea of the constant washing needed by every article of clothes a nurse wears, but it is a most important matter. I have had eighteen years' experience nursing on my own account, and find in themselves cases of less than a week do not, as a rule pay.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Strood, Rochester.

E. M. DICKSON.

Letters on "The Directory Bill," "Do Daily Fees Pay?" and others held over for want of space.

Comments and Replies.

Sister, Benares.—We should advise you to secure (1) "A History of Nursing," by Miss M. A. Nutting and Miss L. L. Dock, published by Messrs. G. P. Putnams, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C., price £1 1s. net; it should be on the bookshelves of all Nurses' Libraries; (2) "Practical Nursing," by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and Dr. H. E. Cuff, published by Blackwood and Sons, London, price 5s.; (3) "Nursing, its Principles and Practice," by Mrs. Hampton Robb, published by E. C. Koeckert, 715, Rose Building, Cleveland, Ohio, United States; (4) "Practical Nursing," by Miss A. C. Maxwell and Miss A. E. Pope, published by G. P. Putnam's, Sons, 24, Bedford Street, London, W.C.; "Modern Methods for Securing Surgical Asepsis," by Dr. Edward Harrison, F.R.C.S., published by A. Brown and Sons, Ltd., 5, Farringdon Avenue, London; and "Materia Medica for Nurses," by Miss L. L. Dock, also published by Putnams, price 3s. 6d. net, a most valuable book. The Transactions of the International Congresses held in Buffalo, U.S.A., in 1901, Berlin in 1904, and Paris in 1907 should also be included in a Nurses' Library. The three volumes can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer, International Council of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., price 6s. We shall be glad to give you the names of other books, if required. We shall have pleasure in sending you a print of Miss Nightingale.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)