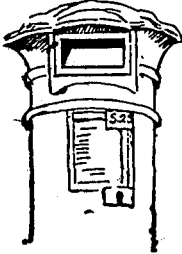


Letters to the Editor.



NOTES, QUERIES, &c.
Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE NEED OF MISSIONARY NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Who can doubt that the need of Missionary Nurses is very great? But who can doubt either that good available material is very rare? The time is gone by when home failures will do for mission fields, and this is well marked in a letter from an American doctor from China, which appears in this month's *American Journal of Nursing*. He writes: "This is to give our views about a nurse. Just a common-place nurse would not make a success out here at the present juncture. Conditions make it necessary that we find an unusual combination of characteristics in the man or woman who is to start our training school. To start the nurses' department will require one who will go in and do all the necessary tasks before the eyes of the assistants, but with such a bearing that they will never think of the work being servile. . . . The woman to do this work should be mature, with proper poise, so unquestionably a lady that low men patients would be unable to say vulgar things in her presence. She must be not only a good nurse, but able to train others, to organise the work for us, and keep it going. The nurse has the nurse's special work, which is as dignified as that of an architect employed to build a building. It is essential that the language be mastered. We must insist upon all of our workers perfecting themselves in the people's colloquial. Without this we will be working for ever with dull tools, and misunderstanding with the people will be inevitable." One realises, therefore, that the right sort of Missionary Nurse must be a highly educated lady, and a woman of the highest ideals, and very few of such women are now entering our hospitals for training.

C. G. F.

SOME COMPENSATIONS IN NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The article entitled as above in last week's issue was specially grateful to private nurses, and as one who has worked most happily as a private nurse for some years, I can support its contention that a "clean slate" with each new patient is a great blessing. Sometimes, with the best of intentions, one fails to meet the needs of a special patient, or their friends; and after a bad time what a relief it is to know that next time one may find oneself more successful. I could not be a governess. One must for ever be on one's com-

pany manners, and for ever posing more or less. How, indeed, could a woman always be an example of deportment, manner, erudition, and temper if she was natural? It must be a terrible strain. Nurses can let themselves go—quite innocently—between cases, and do not suffer so much in the long run from attempting to be perfect persons as governesses do. I once knew a little boy who was a terrible tease, and who had in consequence a succession of mentors, when asked how he liked a new Mademoiselle, replied: "Oh! she's all right. She can tease worse than me. We's called a truce." Any pose with this naughty but lovable child would have failed. This particular Mademoiselle ultimately became nearly related by marriage to the little lad, and the pair mutually devoted to one another. But this is a rare instance. Governesses lead very unnatural lives if they have any individuality.

Yours truly,

P. N.

Notices.

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.

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.

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.

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.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

All competitions must be addressed to the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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