

staff is so organised that there is always a trained nurse available for any emergency. Only those who have worked in sanatoria know how frequently emergencies occur!

Another interesting point raised in Miss Syngé's letter is the suitability of employing delicate girls, or "presumably cured patients," as sanatorium "nurses."

My own experience has quite convinced me that this is not wise unless the girl in question has formerly been a nurse, and has learnt her work in hospital. In such a case one frequently finds that the disease has been, as it were, acquired accidentally, and when once quiescent will not prevent the nurse from acting as a "Sister"—quite another thing to making beds, carrying heavy trays, and generally "flying around," as a probationer must do.

Perhaps I was unfortunate, but I have a lively recollection of more than one untrained girl who had suffered from phthisis, and was anything but a success as a probationer.

We found, after various experiments, that girls of about 20 years of age, who were waiting for vacancies in hospitals, and could not afford to do so in idleness, made the best probationers. We held classes for new probationers in physiology, and taught them bandaging, bed-making, and as much of the rudiments of nursing as possible, and probationers never had any difficulty in getting into hospitals for training when old enough, and I have every reason to believe that the knowledge gained in the Bournemouth Sanatorium was afterwards of the greatest help to them.

We never knowingly admitted as probationers girls who did not intend to go to a hospital for general training when old enough, for we did not wish to swell the ranks of the partially trained!

I certainly agree with your Commissioner that the nursing of phthisis as a speciality forms a valuable post-graduate course, but if a nurse has been properly trained in a general hospital she ought to be competent to take a Sister's and not a probationer's position in a sanatorium when, if she be worth anything, she will very rapidly pick up the special details of her work and the knowledge incidental to it.

Yours truly,

HELEN TODD.

Matron of the Wandsworth Union Infirmary.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have worked in Sanatoria, and although a well-trained nurse found the work most instructive and interesting, and I know my general training was greatly appreciated by the patients. Surely in watching and caring for these patients, something more is required from an attendant than filling hot water bottles, carrying trays, and wrapping up patients in rugs! In some sanatoria the patients nurse themselves. They take and note their temperatures, pulses, appetites, etc. What could be worse for them? They get "chronic" after a time, and lose hope and spirit. I am strongly of opinion that the best

trained nurses should be employed in sanatoria if they are to help the patients to get well.

Yours truly,

TUBERCULOSIS NURSE.

ROME AND THE EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The remarkable zeal against "Papists" shown by the Rev. Jacob Primmer is estimated at its worth in Scotland, but some of your English readers may take a mistaken view of its importance. For years Mr. Primmer has directed his energies against the "Papists" in his own church. The High Church of Edinburgh (St. Giles'), which is visited by many English tourists, was for long the happy hunting ground, and the St. Giles' "images" his pet aversion. He has protested against many things in the Church of Scotland which he believes savour of Rome.

Many of us were almost sorry that Mr. Primmer did not follow the example of old Jenny Geddes (of the year 1637), for if he had assaulted the honoured Dean of the Order of The Thistle and Chapel Royal he would no doubt have had reason to feel "sore"!

Now that he has attacked the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary it may be well for those who do not know his position in the Church of Scotland to explain that Mr. Primmer is not a "parish" minister. Till recently he ministered at Townhill—a "Chapel of Ease," as it is called in Scotland—in the parish of the Abbey of Dunfermline.

It has long been a strong feature in Scotch hospital life that no difference is made in regard to creed, and English nurses may rest assured that Mr. Primmer's intolerant attack on the Edinburgh Infirmary and its Superintendent and Lady Superintendent will only be viewed with scorn in Scotland.

I am, yours, etc.,

E. A. S.

VOILÀ TOUT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I quite agree with "C. T. B." that nurses love stories, and hope that we may have more under the above heading. I hope a competition will be arranged, but doubt it, as not one person in a thousand could write them.

ONE WHO HAS TRIED.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iii. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the future Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

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