

ing, both fever and general, and who were waiting to apply for the post. It is very hard when a nurse has spent over six years in training that a person with no training at all, and a married woman besides, should be allowed to fill these posts.

Believe me,

A TRAINED NURSE.

Reader of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,  
and a Member of the Society for the State  
Registration of Trained Nurses.

Comerton, by Leuchars, N.B.

[There is no doubt that State Registration would at once put an end to the unjustifiable condition of affairs described by our correspondent, who has strong grounds for her objections. We have heard a good deal lately about the perfection of Scottish nursing, and the eligibility of the nurses trained in infectious hospitals in that country for registration without general training. Here is an instance of an infectious hospital in which there is no trained supervision, yet we read in the local press that the institution, which has taken two years to build, is "ideally situated in fine and extensive grounds, and readily accessible from all the districts to be served by the hospital," so that it is evidently of some importance. "Without being too elaborate the internal arrangements are of the most perfect and up-to-date description." Why are the patients of the New Joint Fever Hospital at Newport-on-Tay, N.B., not to have the benefit of skilled nursing, and why are competent nurses to be passed over, and a woman with no training appointed? We should be obliged if the Medical Officer, Dr. Rust, would answer these questions.—Ed.]

#### THE CARE OF THE DEAD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The care of the dead is a subject upon which I feel strongly, and I am glad to see it discussed in your valuable Journal. It is not right that mortuaries should be left entirely to the care of male porters, however willing. I think the presence of women on Boards of Management would help in this matter. Surely they would see that it is unseemly for the bodies of women, on whom post-mortems have been performed, to be subsequently washed and prepared for interment by porters, and also that porters should be requisitioned to close wounds and put in stitches after the medical man has made an examination. I am not clear that this is usually regarded as a porter's duty. In some instances it is; in one case I have a vivid recollection of a "difference" between a house-physician and a porter as to whose duty this was, with the result that the body (that of a child), on which an examination was made late at night, was left on the post-mortem table with the wound unstitched, and the parents narrowly escaped being taken to view it in that condition. In other instances the medical man makes it worth the porter's while to undertake this un-congenial duty. However it may be it is wrong. The work should be in professional hands. Should we like to contemplate the last offices being so performed in our own case? And, if

not, why do we not agitate to protect our patients from it, and have the mortuaries placed under the supervision of trained nurses?

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,  
DECENCY AND ORDER.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.  
To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by my Committee to express to you their warm thanks for your very kind help to the Society in connection with their demonstration of April 27th, and to forward to you the following extract from the minutes of the meeting of the International Congress on April 29th:—

"Dr. Anna Shaw rose and said she felt sure she was speaking on behalf of the entire convention when she said the pageant of April 27th, had been a most helpful form of propaganda and that no speech could have summed up the progress of the movement so eloquently. Dr. Anna Shaw moved a vote of thanks and appreciation for the instruction and inspiration of the pageant. This was carried unanimously."

Yours very truly,  
PHILIPPA STRACHEY.

58, Victoria Street, Westminster,  
London, S.W.

[Those nurses who took part in the Procession and Pageant and helped to make it such a brilliant success, will appreciate this vote of thanks.—Ed.]

### Comments and Replies.

*Midwife.*—You should discuss with your prospective partner the conditions you both think just, and then consult a solicitor and have the agreement in proper legal form. This is most essential. You should have legal advice on the other points in your letter.

*Miss Evans.*—Every nurse has her own pet method for keeping backs comfortable and intact. We cannot, however, commend the use of zinc ointment; it not only makes sheets greasy, but blackens them also.

### Notices.

#### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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 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 xfi.

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