

sponsibility, nothing being left to her initiative, a surgeon or physician always being in close attendance night and day.

I maintain more training is required to nurse a patient who lives ten miles from the nearest doctor, or even if he lives next door.

Yours truly,

A PRIVATE NURSE.

277, Cleethorpes Road, Grimsby.

[Considering that a nurse was engaged to nurse the King in his serious illness and operation, who had never been trained in a General Hospital, in conjunction with a two years' trained nurse from the London, Mr. Holland's argument falls to the ground. As our correspondent points out—a surgeon supervised the King's sick room. This does not disprove our contention that King and commoner alike have a right to a nurse registered after giving evidence of having passed through a well defined curriculum of nursing education, defined and controlled by professional persons appointed under State Authority. At present our nurse training schools are governed by irresponsible laymen who have no expert knowledge of medicine or nursing.—Ed.]

UNPROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—If we required further proof of how the lack of legal status injures trained nurses in the public estimation, your criticism of the action of the Departmental Committee on the working of the Midwives' Act would amply supply it. Here we have a Committee with only one woman on it, and she a lady of social position, and not an expert, not either a trained nurse, or certified midwife, going quite out of the way to define *grades of nurses*, concerning which they had no reference, without either taking evidence or realising the necessity of educational standards before laying down the law. If the nursing profession was devoid of highly educated expert professional women there might be some excuse for this lack of appreciation of their work and value, but the recent Congress demonstrated in a quite astonishing manner how many extraordinarily clever women compose it. Now that so many society women think they must do something, governing nurses and interfering with their work and status appears to be the fashionable pastime. This undesirable element has crept into nearly all the Government services, and the working members of the Q.V.J.I. are merely the paid servants of the aristocratic Council. A few—very few—ladies of social standing have given time to study the nursing question, but by far the larger majority, merely run nurses' work as cheaply and inefficiently as possible. Men have always had an eye to the main chance where women's labour is concerned, paying the barest market value. As for midwives, they must hire themselves out in the country through County Nursing Associations, or starve. I hope when a Committee gets to work to consider "Morality in Relation to Health," it will begin by taking evidence as to morality in relation to empty stomachs! For many cottage nurses

and midwives know the difficulty of filling them on their wretched wage.

Yours very truly,

A LATE QUEEN'S NURSE.

PRIVATE NURSES' PROBLEMS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—With her keen sense of humour, "M. H." subtly impresses her readers with underlying truths, and the article dealing with Private Nurses' Problems in last week's issue would be read by private nurses with amused interest. But if the case is an unknown quantity, so surely is the nurse, as the public sometimes find to their cost. I like that title "Private Nurses' Problems." Their name is legion, and it might be helpful to discuss them, if this can be done without betrayal of confidence. Private nurses require more help and support than any other class of nurses, as they are such nomads—here to-day and gone to-morrow—and they are not popular as a class, though greatly valued individually. The fact that they must be provided with food and fees certainly militates against their popularity. I, too, have met the old lady who likened the sausages to manna from Heaven. She was the stepmother of my first patient, and instead of providing a sugar basin for my tea (on night duty), she placed one lump on a tea plate, and I just would not confess I drank tea without sugar. I was tempted to collect the lumps in a bag and return them before departing; instead I saved them for the "dickies" in the Square!

Yours, etc.,

SUPERINTENDENT.

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.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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, 491, Oxford Street, London, W.

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.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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