

London, and it should be sternly discouraged. But this is the point. Do all Home Superintendents discourage disclosures concerning the management of competing institutions? I hardly think so, and if the evil of gossip is to be stopped, it is the Superintendents who must do it. I wish, instead of considering one another rivals, we could associate ourselves together to raise the standard and tone of the Home Hospital world. No offence is meant in this suggestion; nothing is as good as it might be.

Yours truly,
ANOTHER SUPERINTENDENT.

[This correspondent makes a good suggestion—co-operation for the public good.—Ed.]

WHEN SHE WENT TO THE CUPBOARD, etc.
To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I am much interested in the private nurses' problems. I have been doing private nursing now for nearly ten years. At one case where I was required for night duty only I went home to sleep happily for me, or I should certainly have been starved. I rose at 7.30 p.m. and made sure of a cup of coffee, and something to eat before starting up, but said I should require something to eat through the night, as I was expected to sit up all the time. When the family retired they told me my dinner was in the oven, in the kitchen, and that they had also placed some cocoa and biscuits for me for the night, and some beef tea for the patient; at midnight as the patient was sleeping I thought I would get my dinner. I went to the kitchen, and in the oven (which, by the way, was perfectly cold; I doubt if there had been a fire there—there was no indication of one) I found a very large meat plate, covered by another equally large. I lifted off the top plate. I laughed with vexation. In the centre of this great plate lay the most microscopic chop I had ever seen, with no vegetable, or anything else with it, not even a bit of bread. I went to the pantry and found a dry crust. This led me to the tray, with the cocoa. There was a little speck of cocoa in the cup, exposed to the air till all the flavour had gone, and one lump of sugar, and three water biscuits, and about half a teacupful of beef tea for the patient. He was a youth of about 16. He awoke about two a.m. and wanted his beef tea, and again at 5 a.m. when I had to give him the biscuits, as he was hungry. I need not say I was very hungry at 7 a.m. when the servant arrived who slept out, and I was asked to let her in. I gladly did so, and told her I would be glad of some breakfast, as I had had nothing all night. She was good enough to bring me some breakfast, but I had reason to believe she was scolded afterwards for doing so. When will people learn that nurses are not machines?

Yours truly,
ANOTHER PRIVATE NURSE.

[Some machines even will not work unless they are fed—engines, for instance.—Ed.]

HOW GOOD FELLOWSHIP GROWS

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

MY DEAR EDITOR,—So thankful for the opportunity I had this summer of attending the International Congress of Nurses in London.

I now feel, so much nearer to the nurses in Europe, and am most interested in the good work and fight they are putting up to protect themselves and to raise the standards of our profession.

In order to keep in touch with the work I wish to subscribe for the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING from July 17th.

Thanking you for your very great kindness and pleasures accorded us during the Congress,

I remain,
Most sincerely,

L. A. GIBBERSON.

Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

[This is how good fellowship grows.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Narheim Nurse.—"Runaway heart," "galloping heart," is a condition technically known as "tachycardia," a form of functional disturbance of the heart characterised by greatly increased frequency. A case has been reported in which a patient's heart has beat at the rate of 250 beats a minute. Compare this with the normal 72 beats a minute. If treatment in such cases is of no avail the results must be fatal.

Children's Nurse, Reading.—Girls desirous of becoming children's nurses can receive a thorough and practical training at the three undermentioned crèches affiliated to the National Society of Day Nurseries, in London:—Douglas Day Nursery, 114, Shepherdess Walk, Hoxton; Fulham Day Nursery, 56, Harwood Road, Fulham; Wyndham Day Nursery, 212, Camberwell New Road. Probationers are received from the age of 14, for three or six months' training, according to their age or previous experience. Candidates pay a fee for their board and lodging, and provide their own uniform. (Fees vary at the different crèches.) All particulars can be had from the Matrons of the above-mentioned crèches. In connection with the Education Committee of the London County Council there are classes for first aid, home nursing, health, and infant care.

NOTICE.

Owing to great pressure on our space in this special number, we are regretfully compelled to defer publishing the article, "Morality in Relation to Health," by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, announced for this week, until our next issue.

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.

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