

charge during the Master's absence, etc., and should the Master vacate his post, if the porter be a smart man, he would probably be promoted to the position of Master. Even a Superintendent Nurse in some of the small infirmaries would run the risk of being insulted if she dared to interfere by testing the heat of the bath water, or of being reported to the Master.

In short, the more one thinks over this case the more one wonders why Nurse Bellamy was arrested, for, as an untrained woman, she was not a responsible official.

FAIR PLAY.

#### REGISTRATION CONTROVERSY IN SCOTLAND.

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

DEAR MADAM,—A pamphlet entitled "A Statement Issued by the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland," of which you have taken notice in your columns, greatly to the benefit of Scottish nurses, contains many statements which are, to those who have gone into the question of State Registration, to put it very mildly, incorrect! But it is prepared and printed in such a way as to prove a danger when put into the hands of nurses and the public in Scotland, who have only a dim idea of what State Registration of Nurses means. Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 are quite plausible, and might be leading up to a fair and even enthusiastic analysis of Lord Amptill's British Bill. When we come to paragraph 6, the wolf begins to cast off his sheep's clothing; "alien" and "hostile" are the terms applied to the Registration Council of the British Bill; it is to "intrude itself into the affairs of a hospital." Under the Scottish Bill there can be little room for doubt that the Registration Council would intrude itself into the affairs of hospitals. There would be full scope for interference, tyranny, and favouritism. Many of the smaller hospital schools in Scotland, which provide excellent training, would be "sat upon" by a small Scottish Registration Council. There would be no stimulation of activity, and as to solving of difficulties, many new one would arise.

The acceptance for Registration purposes of certificates of training schools is absolutely unsound in principle. An idle, indifferent, incompetent nurse might under such law register to go forth and inflict herself on the unsuspecting public, while a careful, and competent woman, who only fails in gaining favour with hospital authorities, might be refused her certificate and thus be debarred from registration.

It is to be hoped that Scottish nurses will take this pamphlet with "a grain of salt," for it is full of mischievous and misleading points, calculated to lead astray those who have not gone thoroughly into the whole question of State Registration.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. A. STEVENSON.

The Valley, Trinity, Brechin.

[We have criticised the pamphlet at some length as we are aware that the anti-registration press is in favour of its policy, and will not point out its dangers to Scottish nurses.—Ed.]

#### A CANKER AT THE ROOT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—No one can read Miss Mary Burr's paper, which appeared in a recent issue, without a sense of shame. That criminal assaults on children are common I know very well, but men combine to conceal these horrible crimes from justice, and women have no political power, and are helpless. As a one-time Guardian of the Poor in a rural district, I was sickened many a time by the brute indifference to morality upon the part of male Guardians and the absolute irresponsibility of girls in their teens admitted to the maternity ward of our workhouse. As a District Visitor in a small Midland town—in a low district on dual property—I found that the majority of the middle-aged married women were prostitutes, and their children knew it.

Yours sincerely,

A. C.

#### POOR AND UNDESERVING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am acquainted with a man born a gentleman in good circumstances, who now lives from hand to mouth. I fear he is not very deserving, but he often needs food, and at present is shivering in an old alpaca coat—he does not possess a great coat—and it occurred to me that perhaps some of your kind readers, or their friends, might be able to procure a decent, old, warm great coat to give him. Some woollen under-garments would also be very acceptable.

Yours truly,

A SHEPHERD OF BLACK SHEEP.

[We can vouch for the genuineness of this appeal. If anyone can help, the garments can be sent to the Editor at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.—Ed.]

## Comments and Replies.

C. B.—The Editor regrets that she cannot possibly reply, except through this column, to such questions as are contained in "C. B.'s" letter. The time off duty she wishes for is that of a trained nurse in a hospital, where a substitute is easily supplied; but in private nursing, half days weekly, and whole days once a month, together with two hours off duty daily, are never granted. No doubt they ought to be when a nurse is on permanent duty, but the question arises, who will look after the patient during her absence? The public resent paying and doing the work as well. Two hours daily, and half a day occasionally, should be granted. The best plan would be to have a nurse on night duty who would change duty at an hour, enabling both day and night attendants to have fresh air in daylight every day.

## Notice.

#### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)