

the greatest privilege possible to be permitted to do so, and that this Service has not been overcrowded long since speaks eloquently of the want of patriotism amongst trained nurses. I am well aware that the Territorial Force Nursing Service may have used up the most public spirited, but of nurses who love their dear country, and long to be of use to its defenders, there should be more than enough to fill every vacancy as it occurs in both Reserves. Of course, if war was upon us, hundreds of nurses would clamour for active service. That is all right, but we want a steady, ardent patriotism burning all the time in our Army Nurse Corps. I hope soon to read in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that the Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve is full, and a long list of candidates awaiting appointment to vacancies.

I am,

Yours truly,

READY FOR DUTY.

[We also hope such an announcement may be speedily forthcoming. We urge our readers to make it possible. All information can be obtained from the Matron-in-Chief, War Office, London, S.W.—Ed.]

THE RELEASE OF NURSE PITMAN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Nurse Ellen Pitman, a Suffragist protestor, who was convicted of breaking windows at Bristol, and received the excessive sentence of two months' hard labour, was released after a few days' imprisonment. Her health has been undermined by two previous "hunger strikes," and as she adopted the same means of protest at Bristol it was considered advisable not to risk "an accident" in gaol. In this connection how different were the sentences of the "Bodie" ragging medical students at Glasgow and London. They smashed windows, attempted to wreck theatres, assembled in hundreds, and let loose mob law, and all they got for their protest against humbug were infinitesimal fines or a few joking words of warning. But a woman protesting against an outrageous system of sex enslavement gets a heavier sentence than has many a drunken wife-smasher and baby murderer. If there is one law in old England for the rich and another for the poor, there is certainly one for Suffragettes and a less vindictive one for criminals.

Yours,

A BRISTOL NURSE.

OUR LOST CHAMPION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to see that the Irish Nurses' Association had met to place on record their sorrow, and the loss they have sustained by the death of the late Lord Justice FitzGibbon. It will not soon be forgotten in Ireland what a champion of their interests he was. He was the active Chairman of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution since he and the late Surgeon Wheeler, supported by a few other Dublin gentlemen, laid the foundations, 25 years ago, of the now well-known nursing establishment. During that quarter of a

century Lord Justice FitzGibbon never ceased to promote the interests of nurses, not only of those connected with the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, but of all those who frequently sought his help from all parts of Ireland. Irish nurses will ever remember the part he took to obtain equal rights for them with those of their sisters in Great Britain in the movement for State Registration. In public, as in private, he advocated the claims of the Irish nurses, with a success well known and appreciated throughout the country. He used to say with pride that he was a "working chairman" of the Nursing Institution to which he belonged, and it was remarkable the energy and labour he bestowed upon helping and advancing the nurses under his charge.

A GRATEFUL NURSE.

[We regret that owing to lack of space this letter has been held over.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Queen's Superintendent.—We think you would be interested in "Josephine E. Butler. An Autobiographic Memoir," edited by George W. and Lucy A. Johnson. It is only now that she is dead that this leader of a great crusade against the degradation of women, and State recognised vice, can be spoken of dispassionately. Those, like ourselves, who remember the insult and contumely hurled at this noble woman when she began the courageous attack which ended in the abolition of the Contagious Diseases Act are thankful to live in more enlightened if still somewhat hazy times. *The Shield* is the official organ of the British Committee of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice. Price 1d. monthly.

Home Sister.—In reply to your question, *Practical Dietetics*, dealing with the digestion of moist starch, in a recent issue says that "The digestion of starchy articles of food is hindered by giving them in the form of "pap," since they do not stimulate, or allow time for, the secretion of saliva. This is important because the secretion of saliva is the first of a chain of secretory acts which are more or less consecutive and interdependent; and if the initial stimulus be lacking the subsequent acts are apt to be imperfectly performed."

Notices.

Will our readers kindly notice that communications for the *Editor* should be addressed to her at the editorial office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. If sent to 11, Adam Street, Strand, they are delayed a post, and consequently may arrive too late for insertion.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING may be obtained at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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