

health, strength, and working faculties, to let someone else step in and take over our responsibilities. It is good for us that we should, even with some effort, with some sacrifice, pay our own way; we value what has cost us dear—such is human nature—more than what is lightly attained. Charity is good in its proper place; in time of need, trouble, or sickness, he or she would be a churl who would not accept gracefully what is kindly meant and kindly given; but to brand the whole profession of nursing as a profession in need of charitable alms from its very inception would be to stamp it at once as "niedriger," and to surrender our independence for the instant dole.

Leave us our proper pride. Let this Bill provide us with a Council that shall really and in truth be the controlling force that guides the nursing profession, and let us feel that as individual professional women we stand on an independent, a sound and honest financial basis. Let us "pay our way." It is a good old English idea, perhaps not very modern, but it rings true. The Royal British Nurses' Association, for instance, started on an inadequate, and therefore unsound, financial basis. I speak quite freely, for I helped to erect that shaking framework myself, and it has practically ever since had to be propped up at intervals by kind friends to prevent it from collapsing.

Do not let this Council which is to be our palladium start its career foredoomed to bankruptcy unless it is rescued by the scraps it may drag from a charitable public or an unwilling Treasury. And do not refer to us as the "poor nurses." There is no need to reduce us to a muddled condition of self-pity. We are not rich, but we can afford to pay a fair price for a good article, and we honestly expect and believe that this Registration Bill will give us good value for our five pound note.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT.

#### THE NURSING JOURNAL OF INDIA.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Fancy India with a nursing Journal! Isn't it fine? I was pleased to see it was to be edited by an American woman, trained by Miss Nutting at Johns Hopkins, because the more we realise that there is "no nationality in nursing" the better our work will become. It means more sympathy with one another, something less of deadly apathy in our ranks, and, believe me, it is not only in Europe that the mass of nurses are so narrow; they are just the same at the other side of the Atlantic, and have less excuse, because things over there are much more light and airy. It seems just wonderful to see the resistless influence of the real professional nurses' journals. Aren't you proud that the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was the first of them? I remember the NURSING RECORD when it had a red and white cover. It's about as lively as all other grandmothers these days, and long may it stand for right against might, as it has always done.

An ever constant reader,

AN AMERICAN NURSE IN LONDON.

## Comments and Replies.

*International.*—We should advise you to communicate with Mme. Alphen Salvador, 10, Rue Amyot, Paris, and Mlle. Chaptal, Maison Ecole d'Infirmières Privées, 66, Rue Vercingetorix, Paris..

*Miss Evans, Birmingham.*—Apply to the Matron of the General Hospital or the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, for information as to the terms on which probationers are received.

*Miss E. Robinson.*—A private nurse who has only had medical and surgical training is very indifferently equipped for her work. You should certainly obtain experience in one specialty before taking up private nursing. Fever nursing and massage are almost indispensable.

## Notices.

### RULES FOR PRIZE COMPETITIONS. SOMETHING ABOUT OLD SISTERS.

We offer a prize of £1 ls. for the best paper of reminiscences entitled "Something About Old Sisters." The paper must deal with Sisters or Head Nurses in charge of wards before 1885—women who acquired their knowledge and skill by personal application rather than as the result of systematic instruction. The papers for this competition must not exceed 1,400 words, and must reach the Editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on or before Saturday, March 12th, 1910.

### THE PRETTIEST PATIENT.

We also offer a prize of 10s. for a photograph and description of "The Prettiest Patient," which must reach the Editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on or before Saturday, March 19th, 1910.

The decision of the Editor in each case will be final.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important Nursing societies:—

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Registered Nurses' Society.

The School Nurses' League.

As their official organ is widely read by the members of these societies, the Editor will at all times be pleased to find space for items of news from the Secretaries and members.

Exclusive news being copyright, papers quoting from our columns must give the name of this journal as the source of their information.

### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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