

actively engaged in nursing work. Also my friend, who has been attending the lectures quoted, is most keenly interested in the work, and as keenly resents the extremely poor teaching, if it can be given that name.

I am not aware that I said anything disparaging of the St. John Ambulance Brigade; and if your correspondent will re-read my letter she will see that I acknowledge the good work done by their many lecturers.

But I am still of the opinion that a thoroughly trained nurse, who has been accustomed to teaching, is much better qualified to teach practical nursing than the most expert surgeon or physician. In regard to the work in question being voluntary, I think good expert work, whether teaching or not, is worth paying for.

May I ask Miss Elizabeth Brunning, as all the St. John Ambulance lecturers are such perfect teachers, why have they required her assistance at their classes? I have often heard of these gentlemen teaching nursing and requiring a nurse to demonstrate the practical points, such as bed-making, etc. Surely if you cannot do a thing yourself, it is unwise to undertake to attempt to teach it to others.

I cannot but think if your correspondent were to go into hospital for training as a nurse, she would quickly alter her opinion in regard to this subject.

Whilst I am writing on this subject I would like to know if an examination consisting of eight questions, five written and three oral, is, in your correspondent's opinion, a sufficient test of the amount of information gained during a course of six lectures, especially when it may mean life or death for a suffering human being?

With apologies for the length of my letter,

I remain,

Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARY BURR.

The Chestnuts, Ebford, Topsham, S. Devon.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to draw your attention to my letter, dated 7th April, 1910, which was addressed to Miss Eden, appearing in the current issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and to point out that the statement made therein—viz., "That no exception can be made to the fundamental rule of this Association that the lectures in "First Aid" and "Home Nursing" should be given by qualified members of the nursing profession," is incorrectly quoted, no doubt through a printer's error. In the said letter I distinctly stated "Medical profession" and not "Nursing profession."

Yours faithfully,

P. G. DARVIL-SMITH,

Assistant Secretary, Territorial Branch.

St. John Ambulance Association,

St. John's Gate, E.C.

[In the copy of Mr. Darvil-Smith's letter, sent to us for publication, which appeared last week, "nursing" was written instead of "medical." The mistake was not a printer's error. The letter was in reply to a suggestion made by Miss Eden, that

"First Aid" and "Nursing" lectures might be given by nurses. Mr. Darvil-Smith stated that it was a fundamental rule of the St. John Ambulance Association that they should be given by "qualified members of the medical profession." We hope this rule may be revised at an early date.—Ed.]

RE REGISTRATION BILL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In 1906 I became a member of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and have read with the greatest care each detail of the proposed Bill.

While heartily approving the progressive and protective nature of the Bill, I venture to suggest that many nurses will be disappointed that no Government protection is afforded to the uniform of a trained nurse. Would it not be possible to insert a clause *protecting the uniform* prescribed by training schools *under their respective sections*? At present the nurse's uniform is subject to misappropriations of many detrimental descriptions.

Also, is it not feasible to apply *legal restrictions to unqualified enterprise in the matter of nursing homes*? The latter consideration is responsible for serious harm to the profession and its repute.

I trouble you only from a sense of necessity.

Yours faithfully,

MILDRED PALMER.

Slough.

[Many nurses feel strongly that uniform ought to be protected. This could not be done in a Registration Bill, and is a very difficult question, as the variety worn in hospitals is infinite. No doubt a Bill for licensing and inspecting nursing homes will some day be passed, when Parliament finds time for the consideration of questions of social reform. Those homes which are well conducted are greatly injured by being classed with those which are not.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Miss S. Biddulph-Pinchard, Henley-on-Thames, —Apply to the Matron-in-Chief, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W., for information.

Notice.

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, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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 PRIZE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)