

London, as my experience out of London has been very limited, but in London both at medical missions and district work I have had many years, and have always found the St. John Ambulance lectures up to date, many of the members making a bed quite equal to a nurse. As I have friends at several hospitals as nurses in London, they tell me that as soon as the Sisters are off duty they are glad to rest or take fresh air. I have a friend who is Matron of a hospital in London, but she is not able to spare any time to assist the doctor with the St. John Ambulance lectures. I think you will agree with me that in hospitals nurses have very little time to give, and I find most prefer the doctors to give the lectures. I do not think midwives or health visitors would be able to give the St. John's lectures as it's quite a different branch of teaching. Again, I have had many ambulance students say they would rather a doctor gave the lectures than a nurse, as the former is not so harsh, and has more patience, and will show us things that are plainer for us to understand. All our work is up to date, and the lecturers are from good hospitals, and teach both first aid and nursing in a perfect manner.

I am, yours truly,

ELIZABETH BRUNNING,
St. John's Road, Penge, S.E.

INDIAN WOMEN AND NURSING APPOINTMENTS

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice a reference in your number of April 2nd to the question asked in Parliament by Mr. Kelly, in regard to whether positions like that of Matron and Superintendent of Nurses in the General Hospital, Madras, are open to Indian nurses. I should like to point out that so far no Indian women of sufficient education and executive ability to take such positions have become professional nurses. Nursing has yet its place to make among them. The few women who go in for a public career have become doctors and teachers, and the nurses in training in our hospitals are very largely young girls from mission orphanages or women from lower class families, and none of these are capable of working independently. Some women, like one Brahmin widow of whom I heard, take a training in order to be of service in their own families in time of need, but they would not think of taking up general practice.

A European nurse who was leaving a case in Bombay, where circumstances were not suitable for a European, advised the man, a wealthy Indian, to get a native nurse for the patient. He said he would not have an Indian nurse, as they were all fallen women. This is, of course, a slanderous exaggeration, but it gives an idea what public opinion is, and the difficult task a nurse may have to retain a good reputation. I was told of one midwife whose husband accompanied her to the house for every case she had, that it might be understood that she was not like others.

I called the attention of a prominent Brahmin gentleman in Akola to this question, and asked him if there were any Indian women who had the training for such positions, and he said, "Not one!"

Questions are sometimes asked in Parliament which seem to reflect on the impartial administration of the Indian Government, but in reality show an ignorance of the conditions which prevail out here. Mr. Kelly may be assured that those who are training Indian nurses have as the ideal towards which they are striving the developing of a nurse quite fitted for such positions, and a proper status for her. And there is no doubt that when the conditions and the women are ready the openings will be freely made for them.

Yours sincerely,

ETHA BUTCHER KLOSZ.

CONGRATULATIONS.

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

Having read the article of Congratulations, Miss Patell begs to thank the Journal for wishing her a prosperous future.

[Miss Patell is the Parsee lady who has the honour of being the first woman licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians.—Ed.]

NOTICE.

Miss Mollett, Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, has received some leaflets from and by Dr. Helen Wilson, on the difficulties in the way of notification of syphilis, and will be glad to send copies to any member of the Council who forwards a penny stamp for postage.

Miss Breay, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., will be grateful for a copy of the Annual Report of the Matrons' Council for 1902, if any member has one which she does not require.

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.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Advertisements and business communications should be addressed to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iv. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. 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 xii.

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