

of youth—a tutor, a man evidently carrying a heavy burden.

Ten years later we again passed in the social stream: no further disfigurement had taken place, but grief had attacked the whole drooping figure with talons.

Again quite recently we met in a picture gallery, and after all these years the disease was beginning to make ghastly ravages. I just ran away. The punishment seemed so cruel. Later I made enquiries of a mutual friend—they had been betrothed—and although marriage was impossible, she had all these years tried to keep the man sane. Their story is far too sacred for further comment.

Now, what is the nursing profession doing to try and prevent such unspeakable tragedy? Not much, I fear.

Yours faithfully,
A PROFESSIONAL WOMAN.

THE AFTER-CARE OF OPERATIONS ON OUT-PATIENTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Many Out-Patient Sisters will have read with sympathy your account of the children sent out after operations for adenoids without dressings. The Throat Hospital, Golden Square, is by no means the only offender in this connection. The sterilised gauze dressing to cover over the mouth and nose, as you suggest, would cost little, and protect the poor little patients from innumerable evils as these delicate children are not in a physical condition to resist infection. Where out-patients have to pay for dressings an Out-Patient Sister's duties are oftentimes very invidious, as I know from personal experience. A protective dressing should be the rule for every wound, and I hope your article will effect this purpose.

Yours truly,
A DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT.

"EVERY CAT'S DAY."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—We have lately had a striking instance of a cat who by her intelligence saved the lives of eight people, and this is only one of many similar cases which might be cited. But the cat, in spite of her homely qualities and great sensitiveness, is, for some reason, not a favourite, and is probably treated with less consideration than any other domestic animal.

Pitiful tales come to us continually of unfortunate "strays," of whom tens of thousands are picked up annually in our streets, many of them in a horrible condition from starvation, disease, and mutilation. To remedy, to some extent, this evil in our towns, and to diminish animal suffering, there are now more than 40 Institutions and Homes about the country all needing support from the humane public. Of these I enclose a list, and beg

you to allow me to remind your readers that October 1st is known as "Every Cat's Day," when all animal lovers are asked to make some little effort to lighten the lot of these neglected and misunderstood animals.

I shall be glad to send a list to anyone on application.

I remain, yours faithfully,
ERNEST BELL.

York House, Portugal Street,
Kingsway, W.C.

The Editor regrets that several letters have had to be held over for want of space.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sister Colonial.—We are sorry for your disappointment, but the Home of Rest for Nurses, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, has now been closed for four years. Four thousand nurses visited it during the 16½ years it was open, at the cost of £4,000 so that each nurse cost £1 more than she paid. It was a pity the nurses had not the energy to collect the £200 a year deficit, or help to raise an endowment fund, as the freehold of the beautiful house had been offered as a gift from the generous owner. Another sad result of apathy.

Mrs. T. (Glasgow).—Your letter cannot be published unless it is signed. We fear you have been very unfortunate in your intercourse with private nurses, but we sympathise with your just grievance that the public have no guarantee of a nurse's knowledge, skill, or character. The Registration of Trained Nurses by the State would do much to improve their education, and inspire a high moral standard throughout their ranks. Send a copy of your letter to the M.P. of the constituency in which you reside.

NOTICES.

PRIZE OF TEN SHILLINGS.

The Editor will award a Prize of Ten Shillings to the designer of the best gauze mask to be worn by hospital out-patients after operations on the throat and nose. The designs are to be delivered at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., by first post on Tuesday, October 10th.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR OCTOBER.

October 7th.—What care should be given to instruments after operations?

October 14th.—Describe in brief the disorders of the nervous system which occur after pregnancy.

October 21st.—Mention some important points to remember when giving lavage.

October 28th.—What accidents may occur to the child during delivery?

Rules for competing for our Prize Competition will be found on page xii.

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