

NURSING AND CLERICAL UNIFORMS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—There is no doubt, as Miss H. Kenealy points out, that nowadays nursing uniform is made to cover a multitude of sins, so much so that many trained nurses decline to wear it out of doors. But all those who wear it in doctors' houses are not in borrowed plumes; they are in many instances trained, or semi-trained, nurses who combine parlour work with attending upon the patients visiting the consultant. This fashion was, I think, set by a titled medico with a large practice in Wimpole Street, and like all fashions of economic value to employers, has spread in the West End district.

Don't let us forget that we are only domestic helps, and that those who exploit our skilled work mean to keep us ground down if possible. This fact is proved by our classification in the National Insurance Bill, where we are "lumped together" as you point out, with "seamen and day labourers," excellent and indispensable persons, whose claim to rank with skilled professional trained nurses in a Bill providing for a national invalidity scheme, is not apparent to any brain less infallible than that of a Cabinet Minister of the first rank!

What we want is a Registration Act, regulating our status in the body politic. Until we get it we can have neither just recognition—nor remuneration.

Yours truly,

MEMBER R. N. S.

FEVER NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of the Fever Nurses' Association's first printed list of registered nurses. In addition, the book contains a list of the officers of the Association and of other members, an outline of its objects, &c. It is important that fever nurses should realise that after the annual meeting in May of next year they will not be able to register unless they pass an examination controlled by the Association. A nurse is only registered if she has been on the staff of a fever hospital of a certain size for a certain time, and she must also be recommended for registration by the matron of the hospital. As her place on the register guarantees that these conditions have been met, its value, both to her and to those who require her services, will be plain. Copies of the list are being sent to large nursing institutions, and the Secretaries will be pleased to forward one to the matron of any hospital or nursing association, if requested.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BIERNACKI.

Plaistow Hospital, London, E.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mrs. S. G. Peters.—We can recommend "Hygiene for Nurses" (Theoretical and Practical), by Dr. H. W. G. Macleod, M.R.C.P., D.P.H., price 3s. 6d., published by Smith, Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London, S.W. Also "Domestic Hygiene for Nurses," by Dr. F. J. Smith, F.R.C.P., price 2s. 6d., published by Messrs. J. & A. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, W.

Health Visitor, London.—Write to Miss Carlile, Hon. Secretary, 61, Bryanston Street, W. Free training is offered by the Church Army to earnest women, willing to devote themselves to work among the poor, as Mission Sisters in the slums, as Matrons, or Rescue Workers. This, we gather, is the sort of work your friend is anxious to undertake.

Matron, Cripples' Home.—The National Federation of Christian Workers among Poor Children was formed a few years ago, to "bring together workers in every kind of religious effort dealing with poor, neglected, and crippled children, and to help them by collecting information for general benefit." All information on the subject will gladly be sent to anyone interested on application to the Honorary Secretary of the Federation, 32, John Street, Theobald's Road.

Miss K. F., Nottingham.—Do not enter any hospital where the term of training is less than a three years' consecutive course in the wards, before certification. You will find a shorter term very disadvantageous, when applying for appointments, when trained. At present there is no central examination for Nurses, which qualifies for legal status and registration, as in the case of medical men and midwives. This is provided for in the Bill now before Parliament, the Nurses' Registration Bill. When nurses enquire "when will the Bill pass?" we usually reply, "when nurses deserve it by having worked hard for it." No Government is in the least anxious to legislate for the benefit of women, as their just demands are usually opposed by employers, who have votes. That a Nurses' Registration Bill would accomplish wide social reforms is undeniable.

NOTICES.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR OCTOBER.

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.

STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Full information as to the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and application forms for joining the Society can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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