

[This National Health Act is Law, and as an Act "trained" nursing is not mentioned in it! "Nurses" are lumped with agricultural labourers and other unprofessional workers. To resist hurts no one's susceptibilities because our legislators don't recognise that we exist; although our skilled services are requisitioned—and used throughout the Empire—by nearly every Governmental Department. The situation would be funny if it were not so humiliating. For the hundred-thousandth time, Wake Up Women—get the Vote—the only lever which will open the door to a self-respecting position in the body politic. Legal status for trained nurses through the Nurses' Registration Bill would count—but so long as thousands of nurses will not lift a finger or give a penny to help themselves they can blame no one but themselves for being classed as "unskilled" workers.

Medical men can resist unjust legislation because (1) they have votes, (2) in consequence of votes they have registration, (3) in consequence of registration they can penalise the blackleg.

If nurses attempt to resist the law—Holloway is the only happy hunting ground in which they may disport their grievances.—ED.]

"IN A COTTAGE HOSPITAL."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Will you kindly allow me a small space in your paper, with regard to a novel, "In a Cottage Hospital." I read it with growing indignation, until I reached a description of a horrible scene in a mortuary, which so disgusted me that I could not finish it. Glancing through the rest of the book, I decided it was not fit for any pure-minded woman to read! (I note the writer says: "This is not a novel for little people, nor for fools.") I am not a child, or a "fool," yet certainly think it an unwholesome piece of *fiction* not fit for publication; and, while burning it, heartily wished I could commit every copy in existence to the flames.

Yours truly,

(Nurse) ELLEN E. WHAITS.

Claremont Crescent,
Weston-super-Mare.

[We referred to this matter last week; we cannot agree that this book is unfit for publication, although it is most distressing.—ED.]

OUT OF HAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—No one knows better than we women Guardians the difficulty of maintaining discipline in Workhouse Infirmaries—and I read your last week's editorial with sympathy. What is to be done? Here, in a country workhouse infirmary, we cannot get the right sort of women for the work. I do agree that a Nursing Department at the Local Government Board would have a very good effect—but with the anti-woman

spirit with which the present Government is so fatally inspired, there is little chance of any such reform. In the meanwhile sick people are abominably neglected, and the tone amongst the whole staff is deplorable. I write of what I know personally.

Yours truly,

A WOMAN GUARDIAN.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Staff Nurse, Bristol.—It is always advisable to hold certificates for special branches if you intend to take up private nursing. You are fortunate in having gained your midwifery training and certificate during your general training. We think you would be wise to obtain a massage certificate also, as you propose. If you intend to specialize in maternity nursing eventually, it would be more use to you than training in infectious nursing.

Miss F. M. Bloy.—There is no pamphlet issued giving special information as to how the Insurance Act affects Nurses. They are classed with domestic servants, agricultural labourers, and other unprofessional workers. Nurses have no legal status, that is, no Act of Parliament recognises them—so they are domestic servants in position—although very often a three or four years' term of training in the theory and practice in their skilled work is required of them. State registration alone can raise them socially. You will find the Summary of the National Insurance Act, 1911, by Mr. L. Worthington Evans, M.P., with Explanatory Chapters, most helpful. It is published by the National Conservative Union, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, and only costs one penny.

A Trained Nurse (Bolton).—The firm to which you refer is Lester Mackenzie & Co., 14, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, London, W. The policies cover all sickness and accidents, as well as full death benefits.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

February 24th.—Mention any methods with which you are acquainted for making doses of disagreeable drugs as palatable as possible.

PRIZES FOR NURSING HANDICRAFT

(See page ii. of Cover).

PRIZES—REAL INCIDENT COMPETITION.

A prize of one guinea and a second prize of 15s. will be awarded for a brief description (preferably under 300 words) of any incident of hospital life or of private nursing, serious or comic, which might form the basis of a story. Consolation prizes of half-a-guinea will be given to other competitors whose matter is accepted. Merit will be estimated by the amount of interest attaching to the bare facts related, and not by the style of composition.

Papers to reach the Editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., by February 19th next.

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