

although the properly-trained nurse is a valuable national asset. It is the *defectives*, who, by favouritism, are allowed to parade their own sweet way, without proper certificates at all, to serve some purpose of monetary gain, or other advantage to whoever employs or covers such. These are our real enemies! But for *these*, we should have had a *legal status* years ago, and I am grieved to know there are hundreds such engaged all over the world; to the shame of our system here in England. (*Registration must come soon.*) Miss Mollett advised us wisely. Experience has been valuable to her. She evidently sees—when there is anything worth looking at.

She sees the meaning of the fact that the National Insurance Bill has become law; and it is high time the *real nurses* acted in a business-like manner themselves, to meet and utilise the benefits it is capable of making.

In conclusion, (and this really is very important), will "Wroth" do her fellows the favour of giving particulars of those societies who for 2s. 6d. or 5s. annual subscriptions give sick benefits, compensation for disablement, help towards holidays, and, lastly, in case of marriage, some allowance for trousseau? This truly sounds businesslike. Is it a fact? I am afraid not.

E. S. W.

THEN AND NOW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am not a member of the nursing profession, but as a woman keenly alive to all that concerns her sex I always enjoy reading THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on account of the high standard it aims at.

In your article of February 3rd on "The Nursing Spirit," you compare present-day nurses with those trained twenty-five years ago. May I give you my own experience in support of what you say?

It was my misfortune during last year to have a long and trying illness. For several weeks I had no nurse. Then one came, "a modern up-to-date surgical nurse"; her advent meant discomfort to the patient and the whole household. Her sole idea seemed to get out (this she did for as much as five hours a day!), her one subject of conversation "men," and how she loved nursing them, and as to her actual nursing, why all her patients do not die of blood-poisoning is a marvel to me! When it was decided that I must have hysterectomy done I soon saw that I must have different treatment, so I decided to go to a Home in town where my surgeon could attend me after. For the first week I had a "special" night nurse, one trained twenty-five years ago at Guy's, and the contrast! Her work and her patient were her one interest; duty to her meant everything that was for her patient's well-being. For her patience and goodness no words of mine can express my gratitude—indeed, I feel I owe my very life to her devotion.

In these days of improved methods and longer training, are the results as good as "twenty-

five years ago"? Are they merely mechanical women instead of those with "healing hands and tender hearts," as the pioneers of the nursing profession had?

Forgive my lengthy letter, and with all good wishes for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,

Believe me, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

"LAWWOMAN."

IMPERIAL PEI-YANG WOMAN'S MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was interested in seeing the photograph of some of my nurses and myself and in reading the note about us in your paper of December 23rd, 1911. I thought I had better write and let you know that it was at Guy's Hospital I trained, and not St. Thomas's. When the little snapshot was taken I did not think it would ever appear in any of the papers, as I am afraid it is a very poor picture.

Yours truly,

E. CHUNG MOWFUNG.

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REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Evans, Manchester.—We do not advise you to begin your three years training before you are twenty-one, even though, as you say, you have been offered a vacancy. Probationers who begin training before this age often break down. Their constitutions do not seem to be sufficiently settled to stand the strain of hospital life, besides which, nursing is such an absorbing occupation that it is wise to have some experience of life first.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR MARCH

March 9th.—What qualities do you consider specially important in a nurse who has charge of sick children, and why?

March 16th.—Describe what personal precautions you would take before passing on to another case after attending a case of infectious disease as a private nurse.

March 23rd.—How would you care for the dead, in a hospital, from the hour of death until the corpse is removed from the mortuary?

March 30th.—What special points would you observe in nursing a case of tuberculosis in a poor home?

NOTICE.

The large amount of correspondence sent to this Journal is one of its most helpful features, which the Editor greatly appreciates, but to avoid delay in publication, she will be obliged if kind correspondents will, when possible, not exceed 300 words, as space is limited.

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