

between each. As I count the beads in the Rosary of my years, the larger beads on the chain seem to represent those *Congress years*, knitting up, consolidating, and making epochs in the chain of daily, yearly toil and work.

That bright and stimulating meeting in Paris six years ago under a sunnier sky than ours! The eagerness of the French to learn from us! The courtesy and hospitality proffered to us! Six years have come and gone since then, and in Cologne I met and renewed acquaintance with a young French nurse who told me with pride and reverence "Moi j'ai connu votre Mlle. Isla Stewart." And French and English clasp hands in her memory and pass on again.

*Cela dure! Cela durera!*

Yes, the impressions formed, the resolutions made, the friendships cemented during Congress week are like the snapshots taken by the Congress members. Taken and put on one side for the moment, brought out and developed later on, and finally printed in our hearts.

"And, when at eventide we are alone,  
We bring them out and live with them again.  
The years all pass away which since have flown."

And thus we tell our beads of working days, gladdened by the memory of good seed sown, good work accomplished, quickened and strengthened by sympathy and good-fellowship, looking forward to the rivetting in the near future at San Francisco, fresh links in the international chain.

Yes, dear readers, the International Nursing Congresses have been tested on the touchstone of durability, and they have *not* been found wanting.

ANNIE E. HULME.

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#### A GOOD SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I second a suggestion thrown out by "Another Victim" in last week's issue? She writes, "It seems there should be some place women could get good advice before being trained as nurses." From personal experience I can speak most feelingly of the loss I have sustained from being trained in the wrong way. I am now too old to begin afresh, and shall never be able to hold any position of responsibility in the profession, which I might have done if I had been properly trained. I have read THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for many years, and think far from its policy being hard on village nurses, it is the best friend of women, who for the sake of cheap labour are enticed by County Nursing Societies of society people, to sell their birthright (efficient training and reasonable remuneration) for a mess of pottage (cottage nursing). If there was a Central Nursing Board, training would be defined for all, and we ignorant ones would be put in the right way from the first, as medical students are, but as this Government means to keep women's labour cheap, and as there is no hope for working women so long as it is in power,

could not the Matrons' Council or some such body consider the question of drawing up a course of action concerning training, &c., for women willing to become efficient nurses. Every day more incompetents are encouraged by County and Cottage Nursing Associations to undertake responsible work for which they are not trained, and many of them with systematic training would become valuable nurses, so greatly needed for rich and poor.

I am, yours truly,

A FORTY POUND NURSE.

#### A STRANGE FATALITY.

DEAR MADAM,—Under the above heading, I notice a paragraph in the JOURNAL, referring to the sad death of the Infanta Maria Terésa. But is it so strange, if we remember that her baby was born on September 15th, and that, according to the accounts published in the press, the mother was getting up on the 23rd; that is to say, the eighth day after (and including) that of the confinement. We teach all our working women patients that it is essential for their safety that they should remain at rest in bed until the tenth day after the confinement, if it has been normal; and for those who can afford it counsel the wisdom of a longer rest. We know, of course, that the rule is broken in some instances in our absence; but, so strongly do we believe in its necessity, for the welfare of our patients, that we warn them that if we find them out of bed we shall repudiate further responsibility for them, and cease attendance. The rule is, no doubt, a rough and ready one, as the time for getting up really depends upon the involution of the uterus; but it is safe to say that involution is not complete *before* the tenth day.

If then, this is the case with women accustomed to a hard life, surely more rather than less time in bed should be the rule for a patient accustomed to every luxury, and for whom the necessity for hastening convalescence, in order that bread may be earned for the family, is not of paramount importance.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. M. T., *Clifton*.—Write to the matron of the Kasr-el-Aini Hospital, Cairo, and ask her to advise you. It is by no means easy to work on your own account and be sure of constant employment, as so many nurses go to Egypt, especially to Cairo, for the winter months.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS—OCTOBER.

October 12th.—What is Cataract? How would you prepare for an operation for its removal?

October 19th.—What would you consider an efficient curriculum for the training of a midwife?

October 26th.—Describe the modern management of Scarlet Fever.

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