

October 20th. I should like to thank those nurses who kindly sent letters and cards. Will they also get other nurses to do so? Address—

MISS A. PETITT,
City Hospital, Seacroft, Leeds.

TRAINING AND SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is perhaps silly to answer letters from women who are afraid to let their names be known. But I think the writer of the letter signed "Suffragist" must have good reason for not signing her name because I do not believe she was ever trained at the London Hospital, as she writes, at all. If she had been she would know perfectly well that any nurse who wishes to do so can spend one of the two years of service in the wards.

Yours truly,

SYDNEY HOLLAND.

Kneesworth Hall,

Royston, Herts.

(We do not wonder that working women are afraid to expose abuses by name, employment is too precarious in these days. If the nurses who contract to "serve" the London Hospital after two years' training are at liberty to choose how they will do it, why have they to sign an Agreement in which the following paragraph appears: "I distinctly understand that I am entering upon a four years' engagement, *i.e.*, for the full term of two years' training in the London Hospital, and for two years' service on the Private Nursing or the General Staff of the Hospital, as the Matron may require"?)

Also Standing Order No. 10 states (in italics):—"It must be distinctly understood by every Probationer that if she signs, she signs a solemn and binding agreement to stay four years at the Hospital, and to do such work as she is directed to do." Whether Mr. Holland believes "Suffragist" was trained at the London or not is of little importance. The fact remains that during her residence there the "requirements" of the Matron, and the inclinations of "Suffragist" were not synonymous, and bound by the "solemn and binding agreement" to do private nursing, she had to do it, and she considers it has injured her professional status, and prevented her admission to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

The sooner Mr. Holland uses his influence as Chairman of the London Hospital, and as a member of the Nursing Committee of Q.A.I.M.N.S., to enforce the three years' consecutive term of training and certification at the former, and to insist upon it as the qualification for the latter, the better. The present conditions are most unjust to all concerned.—ED.)

LET US HAVE A STANDARD OF TRAINING

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Why should Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service be the only Government Service to accept a nondescript year of "service" in place of training? I

presume because London Hospital officials and their nominees compose the Nursing Committee, and they have nothing to do with the Naval and Territorial Nursing Departments, which demand any way a certificate for three years' training.

Let us have a standard of training defined. As you say, it is high time. There was much grumbling in my time.

Yours truly,

ONCE A STAFF NURSE Q.A.I.M.N.S.

[Letters unavoidably held over on this question.—ED.]

COLLAR AND CUFF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The enclosed conversation took place between the husband of my next maternity patient and a woman who usually earns her living as a charwoman.

Should you think it worth publishing, I do not think she would object, as she has the greatest contempt for collar and cuff nurses; and, moreover, I do not think she has the good taste to read the JOURNAL.

Yours faithfully,

MARY HARVEY.

London, W.

THE CONVERSATION.

"Good morning, sir; I have been hoping to meet you for some time."

"Good morning, Mrs. Pravist; and why did you want to see me?"

"Well, sir, I heard as your lady was expecting."

"Expecting! expecting what?"

"Another little 'un, sir; a baby."

"Oh, yes, yes; that's quite true."

"Well, sir, I thought there would be no harm in asking if you're wanting a nurse; I'm very good at monthly nursing I am."

"Oh! thank you, Mrs. Pravist; that is very kind of you; but we have engaged the nurse we have always had."

"Yes, sir; but if anything was to happen sooner than you expect, you'll think of me, sir, won't you? I'm not one of those collar and cuff nurses, I ain't; I'm a working nurse, sir, that's what I am; a nurse as works; no collar and cuffs for me; good morning, sir."

"Good morning, Mrs. Pravist."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS—

OCTOBER.

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

[NOVEMBER.

November 2nd.—In nursing a patient in a private house what minor details would you observe in regard to the personal care of the patient, and his (or her) surroundings, in order to add to his comfort?

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