

service in the hospital, but service is not the equivalent of a third year of *training*.

If every nurse who believes in State Registration had really worked for it and explained its objects, I cannot but think there would have been such an universal demand, not only from trained nurses, but also from the general public (whom it will benefit even more than nurses), that long before this State Registration would have been an accomplished fact. It is the personal interest, propaganda, and contributions which tell.

Now that the results of past indifference can be shown to affect the advancement and pockets of the rank and file, let us hope there will be a great awakening to the benefits which accrue to the whole profession when *each works for all*, so that every believer in State Registration will become a *worker* for it, willing to sacrifice herself, time, and money for that which, whilst helping the profession, may not appear to directly benefit herself, and that every nurse will begin to realise that everything she does, good or bad, all her enthusiasms and indifferences, affect more or less the whole body, and that nothing can be done for the whole profession without affecting each individual. It is the pull *altogether* which gets work of any kind *done*.

This winter strenuous efforts are to be made to obtain State Registration; it rests with each individual to make these efforts a success. Apart from any particular united effort, let each one first acquaint herself with the reasons for State Registration; secondly, talk State Registration on every suitable opportunity; thirdly, persuade *men* as *voters* to write to their Members of Parliament asking their interest and support for the Bill, and influence to have it made a Government measure; fourthly, persuade their nurse friends to join the Society for State Registration of Nurses, to subscribe to its funds, and to take THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is its official organ, and so keep in touch with the progress of the movement; fifthly, persuade their unprofessional friends to contribute to the funds, if only 6d. or 1s.—every little helps. If every nurse would do this we should soon gain our legal status, and nurses would speedily begin to feel the benefits of working for the good of the profession as a whole instead of for themselves alone. "Two are better than one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Apologising for the length of my letter, and hoping it may touch the hearts and energies of some,

I remain, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
MARY BURR.

Villa Valaisanne, Montreux.

#### NURSING INSPECTORS NEEDED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The President of the Local Government Board did very well when he

appointed trained Nursing Inspectors, but at present they are a drop in the ocean, many more are required. I have worked in a country workhouse infirmary, and the terrible ignorance of some of the young women selected as nurses could not be believed unless one worked with them. It was work I was obliged to give up. Imagine the following condition of affairs:—Sixty beds, one nurse sole charge, with nearly all beds requiring to be made. This is her staff: one certified lunatic, one lame and deformed, one chronic invalid, one imbecile from an asylum, and two suffering from fits, one under observation for lunacy, and a very old woman. Is this not cruelly wrong for the patients and nurses also? Ichabod indeed!

Yours truly,

SORRY FOR THE POOR.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. F. T., *Liverpool*.—We fear there is no escape. The Insurance Commissioners are advised that a trained nurse working on her own account is ordinarily employed under contract of service. Insurance contributions are, therefore, payable in respect of her so long as she is employed at a rate of remuneration (inclusive of the value of board and lodging) not exceeding £160 a year. The person by whom, or on whose behalf, she is engaged is to be regarded as the employer. Many private nurses intend to stamp their cards rather than ask patients to do so for them.

A *Queen's Nurse, Carlisle*, must send name and address, as no anonymous information can be inserted.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 9th.—What would you prepare for an intravenous infusion, and what precautions would you take if assisting in its administration?

November 16th.—State successful methods of treatment for constipation?

November 23rd.—How should a nurse care for her hands so that they are kept in the best condition for use in the sick room?

November 30th.—What form of infection is likely to follow the retention of a piece of the placenta after delivery, and what are its characteristics?

#### OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

##### TOYS FOR TINIES.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at the cost of not more than 6d. The toys must be sent to the Editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., by December 14th, with the coupon which will appear in the issue of December 7th. All the toys will be distributed to poor children under the age of five years of age, so they should be made to meet the tastes of tinies.

*previous page*

*next page*