

## THE FIRST-FRUIT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been greatly surprised that the Bart.'s League of Nurses, with few exceptions, appear to take little interest in the progress of nursing education, and well remember two years ago, when it was proposed to raise a fund in memory of our dear Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, how few appeared to appreciate the form it took—in sending a member to New York to study at Teachers College under Miss Nutting.

"What can they teach us in America we do not know?" asked Sister Self-Satisfied. In spite of this insular attitude of mind the money was raised, and Miss M. S. Rundle, as the Isla Stewart Scholar spent a year in New York as a pupil at Teachers College.

When she returned she took up a subordinate post at the Royal Free Hospital, and Sister Self-Satisfied again questioned "What can she do there? Money thrown in the ditch."

A short time ago Miss Rundle began her work as Matron of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road. That was the climax for poor Sister S. S. Yet how true it is that knowledge is power, and can always be turned to account.

Your editorial of the 12th, in which was announced the founding of "A School for Special Training in the Nursing of Tuberculosis" gave me unqualified satisfaction.

"A school," "special training," "preliminary and post graduate," "thorough teaching"—that is just what is needed by nurses if they are to take their rightful part in the great anti-tuberculosis campaign all over the country. One wonders if the Isla Stewart Scholar had spent all her time within Henry the Eighth's Gate she would have evolved this excellent curriculum, or would have been content to follow along beaten tracks.

Anyway, those of us who subscribed for a "Scholar" feel we are to have a very good return for our money, and we hope that great numbers of nurses will avail themselves of the special teaching at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, and carry far and wide the valuable knowledge they acquire there. Nothing would have pleased the founder of our League more, were she still with us, than to see her nurses well equipped to help to stamp out tuberculosis.

Yours truly,

A MEMBER LEAGUE ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S  
HOSPITAL NURSES.

(It certainly is wonderful how things pan out. Now we want the members of the League to endow a scholarship in memory of Miss Isla Stewart, so that in perpetuity it should be available for nurses trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital to go out and learn from others the best methods in the various branches of their profession. We want at least £2,000 to endow this scheme, and with 700 members there should not be any real difficulty. Subscriptions may be sent to Mrs. Shuter, Cleveland House, Chiswick Lane, W.—Ed.)

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Sister T. (London).*—The great value of a Nurses' League is that every nurse certificated in the school of the hospital to which it is attached has a voice in its management, and keeps in touch with her colleagues wherever they may be. At the meetings a nurse learns to conduct business, to speak, and to take an unselfish interest in those who may be less fortunate than herself. Lectures and social gatherings can be paid for out of League funds, and through the National Council of Nurses each unit can be associated with the nurses of the world, through the International Council, a most educative organisation, as those who have attended International meetings can testify. Leagues which "keep themselves to themselves" lose much of the spirit and benefit of professional comradeship.

*V. W., Isle of Wight.*—You will find "Practical Nursing," by the late Miss Isla Stewart and Dr. Herbert Cuff, published by Messrs. William Blackwood & Sons, 37, Paternoster Row, E.C., 5s. net; "Nursing: Its Principles and Practice," by the late Mrs. Hampton Robb, published by E. C. Koeckert, 715, Rose Building, Cleveland, Ohio, price 8s. 4d.; and "Practical Nursing: a Text-book for Nurses, and a Hand-book for all who care for the Sick," by Miss Anna C. Maxwell and Miss A. E. Pope, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, price 6s. net—all very useful books.

## THE SWEATING OF VILLAGE NURSES.

Our criticism of Mr. H. R. Bruxner's letter which appeared last week, and letters referring to the above subject, are unavoidably held over until next week. The space available in this Journal is now far too limited for the numerous subjects of interest with which we are invited to deal.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*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 five years of age, so they should be made to meet the tastes of tinies.

*previous page*

*next page*