

believed that no memorial of the same kind exists in Scotland, this appears to be a suitable time and opportunity to commemorate one whose long life was spent in the service of the sick. To render nurses efficient in their work, members of an honourable calling and therefore fit and able to help themselves was always Miss Nightingale's object—an object which, fortunately, commands respect and sympathy from many outside the bounds of the profession.

Every care will be taken by the Society that a high standard of efficiency will be maintained, and examiners appointed (whether members of the medical profession or nurses) will be those who are conversant with the educational requirements of nurses.

Donations forwarded to any of the undersigned will be acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

We are, yours faithfully,

- J. ALEXANDER, Matron, Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley (*President*).
 A. B. BOYD, Matron, Eye Institution, Aberdeen.
 E. TOD, Matron, County Hospital, Ayr.
 J. G. MCDUGALL, Matron, Maternity Hospital, Aberdeen, (*Vice-Presidents*).
 E. A. STEVENSON, Bay View, Johnshaven, Kincardineshire, (*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*).

A SLUR ON THE NURSING PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with satisfaction the resolution passed at the recent meeting of the National Council of Nurses, in reference to the exclusion of trained women nurses from the units sent to care for the sick and wounded in the Near East, by the British Red Cross Committee. This exclusion is a very serious slur upon the nursing profession indeed, and when we read of the value of the services of the trained nurses sent to Turkey by the Red Crescent Society, and those accompanying the Women's Convoy Corps, with what honour the latter have been treated by the Queen of Bulgaria, it warms one's blood a bit to realise that although the British Red Cross in their advertisements for money include "Nursing" in their benefits, and the public have subscribed nearly £40,000, Sir Frederick Treves and his Committee have thought fit not to expend one farthing voluntarily on skilled nursing in this war. Upon enquiry I was told that thoroughly trained men, nursing orderlies, have been sent instead. How can this be? Male orderlies have their place in the scheme of military nursing, just as administrators, physicians, surgeons, and domestics have, but male orderlies do not and cannot supersede skilled women nurses, and for many years have not done so.

Moreover, in my old hospital I hear for a fact that one of the porters, calling himself an "orderly," has been sent out by the British Red Cross Society in this capacity!

Nursing is women's work, and our British Red Cross has no right to deny to us the satisfaction of service at the front, the remuneration for such service, nor the recognition which would naturally result to our honourable profession from the performance of our public duty.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF
 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

[We feel quite as strongly as our correspondent, the indignity cast upon our cloth by the exclusion of Trained Women Nurses as part of the units organised for active service by the British Red Cross Society, and if a sufficient number of trained nurses will take action on this very serious matter, we will do our best to have it brought to the notice of those, who we feel sure must sympathise with the nursing profession in their excusable indignation, and thus prevent in the future the British public being appealed to for funds to provide trained nursing when its consolations are excluded from Red Cross work so far as British women are concerned.—ED.]

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT.

Sister C. (Birmingham).—The Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society is a friendly society for trained Nurses, through which they can manage practically the funds compulsorily contributed through the National Insurance Act. It is the only society of trained nurses approved by the National Insurance Commission which does not also admit unprofessional persons. Nurses should keep the control of their financial affairs in their own hands. There is no reason to pay men high salaries for depriving themselves of personal and professional responsibility. No class of women workers are more exploited under the cloak of philanthropy than trained nurses, and they will continue to be so until they conscientiously realise their corporate responsibility.

OUR CHRISTMAS PRIZE COMPETITION.

Competitors in the "Toys for Tinies" Competition are asked to note that the last date for articles to arrive at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., addressed to the Editor, is December 14th.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 21st.—How would you amuse a convalescent child aged 5 to 8 years isolated with infectious disease?

December 28th.—What symptoms would lead you to suspect apoplexy? Give nursing treatment of apoplexy.

NOTICE.

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, will get one or more new subscribers, so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support. Address of Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)