

nurses, as without a prescribed minimum of nursing efficiency the registration of nursing homes would be useless. Yours sincerely,

M. B.

(Several letters are held over on this question.—ED.)

LARRIKIN LAW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry to note the advice of an Australian Matron in last week's editorial discouraging us from emigrating to the Colonies, because many working women are longing for a change from the narrow and restrictive sphere at home. Enjoyment as summed up in personal comfort is not the aim of life if it is to be lived to the full, and I intend to go to Canada and take a helping hand in protecting the health of the strenuous folks building up the Empire out there. I have been in Australia, and, in spite of certain disadvantages, I found the atmosphere surrounding the worker far more vigorous than in the Strand and Bond Street. Don't let our really fine women be discouraged from leaving the old country. Few appreciate their liberty-loving spirit here, and it will all be crushed out of them by plutocratic vulgarity if they are content in the future to obey "Larrikin Law." The Manhood Suffrage Bill, if it becomes law without enfranchising women, and amongst them trained nurses, will place the power of life and death over women in the hands of these ignorant youths. Anyway, in Australia women can insist upon decent conditions of life. My advice to self-respecting working women is to clear out of a country which values them so little, and let the Larrikins import the serfs they require, at the very poor pay considered adequate for our skilled work.

Yours truly,

A BRITISH WOMAN.

A JUST SALARY THE REMEDY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In a letter which appeared recently in the *Glasgow Herald*, written by Mr. Sydney Holland, opposing our demand for State Registration of Nurses (after accusing Miss E. A. Stevenson of inaccuracy, and making a personal attack upon you and the only Nurses' journal which tells us the truth) he writes:—

"The attempt to get the word 'trained' before the word district nurses in the clause enabling an approved society or insurance committee to support a 'district nurse,' and to appoint 'nurses' for the purpose of visiting insured persons was happily not successful. If it had been there would have at once arisen the question as to what a 'trained nurse' is, and if the view of Miss Stevenson and others had been carried out in the definition of these words then hundreds of women doing most excellent work all over the country as district and village nurses would have been put out of

work, and there are not enough other nurses to take their place."

It is wonderful how tenderly careful the "antis" are of the interests of those who, after a few months' so-called training, assume the responsibility of nursing the sick—and here let me say it is not always their fault they are lured into undertaking such hard work for such poor pay. But Mr. Holland makes a significant admission when he says if "trained" nurses had statutory protection "hundreds of village nurses would be put out of work." Many village nurses are certified midwives—and as such have State protection—and will not cease to act as such when trained nurses are treated with equal justice by the State. But if "hundreds of women" are sailing under false colours, assuming to be skilled nurses when they do not possess the knowledge and experience to make them so, the sooner the poor are protected from them the better. The majority of village nurses are so insufficiently paid that their rich patrons are rapidly creating another pauper class of women workers, and classes of women workers in the pauper line are a national danger. In Scotland we have fought and shall continue to do so, against this evil imported from over the border.

The truth is that if a just salary was offered for district nurses, from which they could save for old age, there would be plenty of excellent nurses offer for the work. But their work is held in contempt economically, and self-respecting well-trained women will not, and cannot afford to work at the price. With gratitude for the good fight THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING puts up for justice to nurses all round,

Yours truly,

ONCE A SCOTTISH QUEEN'S NURSE.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR AUGUST.

August 3rd.—What points would you observe on the admission of a new patient to a ward, and why?

August 10th.—Enumerate the principal physical, mental, and moral qualifications requisite in a trained nurse.

August 17th.—Mention some of the emergencies you have met with in the course of your nursing career and your methods of dealing with them.

August 24th.—How would you deal with severe post partum hæmorrhage in the absence of medical assistance?

August 31st.—Describe the preparation of a patient for receiving an anæsthetic. What precautions would you take before and after?

THE TRAINED NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

APPROVED BY THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.

Miss Mollett, Hon. Secretary, will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., daily, and will be pleased to give all information possible to those desiring to join a Friendly Society of professional nurses.

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