

parlour-maids and secretaries in nurses' uniform. This is a custom which should be put down; I speak from personal experience. Why is it done, if not to deceive the public?

Yours sincerely,
London. CO-OPERATION NURSE.

DEAR MADAM,—In the village in which I live, one of the fastest girls in the village returned, after three months' absence, in a nurse's uniform! She is now on the staff of some private nursing home in London. Heaven help the patients.

Yours truly,
F. P.

MADAM,—There will always be black sheep in every profession, and therefore, no doubt, women will enter bars in uniform, and in a drunken condition drag in it the mire, but I agree with you that a Central Disciplinary Authority, such as would be set up under the Nurses' Registration Bill, would by moral force do much to elevate the whole nursing profession. It is not only the masqueraders who have despoiled our once honoured dress; trained nurses themselves have not held it sacred—nor in respect. How many trained nurses think anything good enough for "uniform"? I have seen certificated private nurses wearing such shabby cloaks and deplorable bonnets—fit only for the dust-heap. It was only the other day that a nurse sent to a friend appeared in the sick room in a dirty apron, in which she had travelled in a dusty train. How about germs? When questioned on this insanitary proceeding, she said she had been on duty in the hospital ward all day, and had only just time to catch her train, and excused wearing it, as "she thought it was good enough for night duty." When I add that she had been directed to prepare the patient for a serious abdominal operation to take place next morning, you will appreciate the danger of her dirty covering. But what of the management of a hospital from which such criminal carelessness is possible? I believe Registration would place in power better trained Matrons—they would be trained for their special duties; and that a higher standard of training and work would then be instituted. Had I not myself been a trained nurse, I might have objected to the soiled and may-be microbinous garments worn by the nurse in question, but should not have realised *the danger to the life of my friend*.

Yours very sincerely,
A CONVINCED REGISTRATIONIST.

ONE REASON WHY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note complaints are beginning to be heard in the land that the supply of first-class young women (and by first-class I mean healthy and well-educated girls), falls short of the demand for training as nurses. I can give you

the reason why. I am a "parson's wife," with two daughters who must earn their own living; why do I not encourage them to become trained nurses, as in the past I should have done? First, because our cheap Nursing Association for the poor selects women, and after a few months' superficial training, employs them as "trained" nurses in our midst, and more than one in this county has had an illegitimate child! Secondly, because so many hospitals sweat their nurses' work, in return for training; I have young friends at London hospitals, who earn £100 for the institution, and do not get, "all told," half that sum; so is the goose killed, who lays the golden egg of highly skilled nursing! No; one of my daughters intends to thoroughly qualify herself for farming in Canada, and the other as a cock. I have a niece who is a dancing mistress, who earns £300 a year; and her sister intends to be a riding mistress, and hopes to earn more. There will be plenty of room for all these spirited healthy-minded girls, if they do not marry, in Canada by and by; and there is no reason why they should be classed with the badly-paid, and therefore often immoral women one hears about in the nursing world.

Yours truly,
A PARSON'S WIFE.

[There is no doubt sweated work often means temptation to young women, and that it should be done under the cloak of charity is the more reprehensible.—ED.]

NURSES AND SECRET COMMISSIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose you some cuttings from Liverpool papers, by which you will see that the suggestion that private nurses demand commissions from chemists is not supported by the members of the Liverpool Chemists' Association generally; but that isolated cases of this dishonest custom are cited. Matrons say it is not done, as the private nurses on hospitals' staffs are well paid; but we know they would be the last to hear of it—if it was done. As we are run down so much nowadays in the Press, I shall be obliged if you will quote what Mr. Charles Symes is reported to have written to the *Liverpool Echo*. Mr. Symes writes:—

I was unable to attend the meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association last evening, and was somewhat surprised at the report of the meeting in your columns this morning. Had I been present I should have recorded my experience of over forty years in Liverpool, in regard to nurses. I have always found them as ladies above so contemptible a thing as taking a commission on a patient's bill; and have never had such a thing suggested to me but on one occasion. This was courteously refused, and the lady explained that she should not have mentioned it but that "it had been given to her by another chemist, and said she rather felt it was scarcely the right thing." This one case out of the large number I have had dealings with does not justify the statement that "nurses insisted

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