

**AFTER A QUARTER-OF-A-CENTURY.**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—After a quarter of a century the daily press appears to be awakening to the fact that the Registration of Nurses is a question of vital importance to the public, as even our local papers have at last mentioned the subject. We have a great number of hospitals in Manchester, but the management of the majority is entirely in the hands of substantial men of very reactionary opinions so far as women's affairs are concerned. The Royal Infirmary is a splendid institution—and trains its nurses well—and yet the officials oppose any nursing standards being authorised by the State, or legal status for its excellent nursing staff, or the sick public being protected from the ministrations of many most ignorant and undesirable women who compete with trained nurses in Manchester. Why? Speaking with an M.R.I. nurse lately she said: "Of course, we shall register if the Bill passes, but we needn't bother, as we are safe." "Then you don't deserve to have the privilege," I replied, "as you have not done a thing or paid a penny to help the cause." In my opinion it is most mean to stand aside when others are working and paying for a privilege—which one intends to avail oneself of as soon as it is won. Nurses in Liverpool are a little more alive to their professional interests, but not much. Lancashire for once shows a very great lack of public spirit—where nursing reform is concerned—and its old proud boast of marching in the van of progress, where nursing organization is concerned, would be sadly out of place.

Yours truly,

M. T. GALLOWAY.

Manchester.

**WOMAN'S WORK OF NO ACCOUNT.**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like an answer to that question asked by a correspondent last week, "As nurses are not allowed to work with quack doctors, why should doctors work with and recommend quack nurses?" It is certainly most unfair. I have lately returned from Australia; there the doctors are far more particular in supporting trained nurses than they are at home.

Yours sincerely,

KATE MUNRO.

Birmingham.

[In Australia a very good system of voluntary registration of nurses is in force. Here, the less training a nurse has the more capable she is assumed to be. We constantly observe medical men who would not touch a quack-medico with a pair of tongs—eulogising in the press women as "skilled nurses" of superlative perfection who have never been trained in a hospital at all! The truth is that nursing standards are entirely controlled by people the majority of whom *do not know what it means*. Incompetence, sweating, fraud and suffering are bound to continue where

there is no personal responsibility by professional nurses for their own work.—Ed.]

**"TRAINED BY HER OWN EXPERIENCE."**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I suggest to my fellow nurses through the B.J.N. that whenever such cases of fraud as that described under the heading last week of "Trained by her own experience" are reported, that a copy of your paper marked should be sent to the Members of Parliament in the district in which they live. Such cases are, unfortunately, very common, and as constant dropping wears away a stone, our legislators may in time realise the extent to which the unfortunate public is victimised by women posing as trained nurses by wearing their uniform when on crime intent. If only we had the vote we could have compelled attention to the present disgraceful condition of affairs in the nursing world long ago, and greatly improved them.

Yours truly,

A DEVON MATRON.

[At the recent meeting in London to protest against the Misuse of Nurses' Uniform, Dr. Chapple made the suggestion that nurses should not write long letters to M.P.'s, but just enclose cuttings, or quite briefly draw their attention to matters which they desired to bring to their notice. We hope nurses all over the country will adopt this suggestion and prove how greatly the public need the protection which would be effected through the Nurses' Registration Bill.—Ed.]

**OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

*April 12th.*—Mention the directions in which the waste of hospital property is likely to occur (a) in a ward, and (b) generally throughout the building.

*April 19th.*—What are the dangers (a) to the mother, (b) to the child, in a case where there is a purulent vaginal discharge at the commencement of labour.

*April 26th.*—Mention some of the uses of the skin, its condition in health, and some prominent features characteristic of disease.

**THE SILVER JUBILEE NUMBER.****ORDER EARLY—PRICE 1d.**

On April 19th we shall publish the Silver Jubilee Number, and we invite our readers' assistance in making this a notable event. We shall hope for whole-hearted support in spreading THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING far and wide. Let every reader who appreciates what this Journal has done for the profession throughout the world make it her duty to bring its work to the notice of her colleagues by filling in the order form for extra copies, to be found on page xii of our advertisement pages, and returning it to the manager so that we may estimate how many thousands of extra journals will be required.

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