

for trained nurses, which at present are undeniably unjust. The latter, I presume, is the reason why highly paid officials, such as the Matron of the London Hospital, and her pupil the Matron of Bart.'s, oppose so bitterly, any freedom of thought, speech, or action, for the unfortunate women who are compelled to work under them.

It is high time that Parliament dealt with this question of the organisation of nursing and the protection of nurses by passing the Bill for their registration, which has been before it for nine years; and that the social influence privately brought to bear against it should be exposed.

Let the public demand a detailed and audited balance-sheet of the huge private nursing business carried on by the London Hospital, and judge if the thousands and thousands of pounds of profit made on the labour of these working women is just.

There are some of us who suspect that as soon as free speech is quashed, it is most probable that the serious financial deficit at Bart.'s may be substantially decreased by the adoption of the London Hospital system of exploitation of the private nurses' work.

These questions of the autocracy of hospital matrons, and the oppression of nurses, are boycotted by so many daily papers that the public know little of their injurious effects.

I very sincerely hope you will do me the justice to insert this letter.

Yours truly,

GEORGINA B. MACVITIE
(*Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital*).

[Several letters, all equally indignant in tone, from certificated Bart.'s nurses, are held over from want of space.—ED.]

THE STATUS OF DISTRICT NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Letters on the depreciation of district nursing—which in rural districts has been rapid and unquestionable of late years in England, have interested me greatly. I was amused at a recent meeting, called to eulogise district work, a belted Earl in the chair. Some of us hard workers (Queen's Nurses) had been sent to the platform. There came along a "committee lady." She swept us with a supercilious glance; then, commanded, in a loud voice, "Ladies on the platform, nurses to the side seats!" We rose meekly, and effaced ourselves—not without a sense of indignation and amusement. We didn't care a fraction that the imputation was we were not "ladies" (many of us are not), but we resented the insult to our cloth—and the innate contempt of the employer for the worker.

Yours truly,

A QUEEN'S NURSE REGISTRATIONIST.

' REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Health Visitor.—We felt sure you would find the pamphlets useful. We recommend to your notice the following works by Dr. F. B. Lowry, and published by Forbes & Co., Chicago, at 55 cents., mailed: "Truths: Talks with a Boy Concerning Himself"; "Confidences: Talks with a Young Girl Concerning Herself"; "False Modesty that Protects Vice by Ignorance"; and (price 1 dollar) "Herself: Talks with Women Concerning Themselves." They deal with sex-education, and blame ignorance of this subject as the most potent factor in the production of the loss of health and misery that ruin so many lives.

C.V.T. London.—Why not ask the question, before signing the contract, "Is the committee of this hospital hostile to the State Registration of Nurses?" If the reply is in the affirmative, avoid it; intelligent women are not required on its staff. We fear in the future the hospital you mention will repress professional aspirations. We regret we cannot advise you to go there—as in the past we should unhesitatingly have done.

Scottish Nurse Dundee.—Apply to the Superintendent, Scottish Branch, Q.V.J.I., 29, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. The present high standard for district nurses is to be maintained, and we sincerely hope it always will be.

Queen's Nurse.—We think you would find an "Index of Practical Nursing," by Dr. J. Basil Cook, D.P.H., Senior Assistant Medical Officer at Kensington Infirmary, published by Messrs. Baillière, Tindall & Co., 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C., very useful. The price is 2s. net. The book assumes the reader's acquaintance with the rudiments of Anatomy, Physiology, and First Aid, and avoids as far as possible the use of technical terms.

The Editor will be obliged if Mrs. M. E. Thatcher and Miss H. Colvin will communicate their addresses to her at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

January 18th.—Describe the most unusual and interesting obstetrical case you have nursed.

January 25th.—What are the principal requisites in the care of rachitic children?

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.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)