

still I should have thought their sense of justice and fairness would have allowed a custom to continue which was of great benefit to the hospital, and tended to raise the standard of the nursing staff generally.

In the past "Bart.'s" has always been in the front rank as a training institution, and it is much to be regretted that there has been this attempt to put back the clock and relegate the nursing staff to the position of domestic servants. In these days, when the study of medicine and surgery is advancing by leaps and bounds, is it not of vital importance for nurses to strain every nerve to keep pace with it, and how can they possibly do this unless some standard is fixed to exclude those who by their untrained ministrations would become a positive source of danger to our sick poor?

A "BART.'S" SISTER OF
EIGHT YEARS' STANDING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—If "one member suffer, all the members suffer with it," because "there should be no schism in the body." This is the true spirit of nursing; hence this is the reason why I, not being a Bart.'s nurse, make their cause my own in the circumstance which has aroused so much righteous indignation among the members of our profession. Liberty of opinion and free speech are among our most cherished institutions.

Bart.'s has stood as the premier hospital as a training school in the broadest sense, because of the broad mind and liberal views of the former Matron—the late Miss Isla Stewart—who strove untiringly to inculcate into the minds of her nurses the duty of *esprit de corps*. To this end she encouraged in every possible way independence of thought and individuality of character. How well she succeeded is common knowledge to all in the national and international nursing world.

The disorganised, chaotic state of the nursing profession at the present time is a scandal and an insult to the memory of our great founder—Florence Nightingale. Almost every day one reads or hears about unscrupulous women masquerading in the uniform of a trained nurse; many have to answer for their misdeeds in the police court, while many more dare to enter the sick room and impose upon the helpless sick, to their peril, and to the injustice of fully-trained nurses from whom they filch their just fees. We know absolutely that State registration will remedy this and many other glaring and obvious evils, and lift the profession upon a higher plane, as it has done in other countries.

We mean to keep the sacred flag of State registration flying, in spite of, and because of, all opposition.

BEATRICE KENT.

9, Colosseum Terrace, N.W.

[We do.—Ed.]

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As an old Bart.'s nurse, who has taken a great interest in Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb—from which it is very difficult to obtain employment for the inmates—may I quite seriously make the suggestion that, in the future, probationers for St. Bartholomew's Hospital should be recruited from these exceedingly intelligent persons.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

A NURSE WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—For some considerable time past our County Superintendent has experienced very great difficulty in finding suitable candidates for training as Midwives and Village Nurses.

My Executive Committee have recently thoroughly investigated the whole subject, and have come to the conclusion that, without doubt, one of the principal reasons, why candidates are not forthcoming, is that the Salaries we offer are lower than those offered elsewhere and are quite insufficient. Since the remuneration was fixed at "not less than 16s." and so on, the cost of living has greatly increased and wages have risen.

We have therefore decided that in future the salary of every Nurse after her period of training shall be £1 per week, which is the sum paid in neighbouring counties, and we shall be unable to supply a Nurse for a lower wage.

It would be eminently desirable that those Nurses who now work under existing agreements for a less sum should have their Salaries raised.

Yours faithfully,

H. R. BRUXNER,

Hon. Secretary.

Chaseley House,
Rugeley.

[The more these salaries are raised the better. We recently discussed this matter with Mr. Bruxner in this journal.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 1st.—What precautions would you take in nursing a case of venereal disease in regard to the patient, the household, and yourself.

February 8th.—How would you nurse a case of tracheotomy, and what is your practice in regard to the care of instruments and tracheotomy tubes in these cases?

February 15th.—Describe the daily and general care you would give to the mouth and hair of a helpless patient.

February 22nd.—How might a case of scarlatinal nephritis be recognized, and how should such a case be nursed?

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