

attended by earnest-minded men and women who prefer deeds to words. The mind of women is awakening fast; this demand is an indication of the awakening of *men*.
BEATRICE KENT.

THE NURSING OF THE INSANE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The problem, How to get in Holland good Mental Nurses, is one we have as yet not solved to our entire satisfaction. Now, I should be so glad if you would kindly put the question in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as the official organ of the International Council of Nurses, how matters are managed on this point in other countries. I will tell you what our difficulties are, then you will better understand what I want to know and hear from other countries.

In Holland the mental nurses are mostly recruited from the lower classes. Many of them left school at the age of twelve years and had to earn their living as little maids-of-all-work, doing errands for shops, &c. The result is that they have for the greater part forgotten everything they learned in the school and cannot even write correctly a simple note. It is only a small number of better educated girls who take up mental nursing. In the training schools for mental nurses pupils are accepted at the age of eighteen years, and even younger. A few days ago we had an interview with one of the State Inspectors for the Asylums of Lunatics. We wanted him to use all his influence so that a condition of admission should be instituted that the pupils of the training schools for Mental Nurses should at least have been at school till their fourteenth or fifteenth year. He thought that it would be impossible to put that condition, because in that case there would not be forthcoming a sufficient number of pupils. Besides, he was of opinion that for the nursing of the majority of the insane, who are imbecile or senile, much intellectual development is unnecessary.

We judge it a great mistake to entrust the care of the insane to young uneducated girls. One way to solve the problem seems to us to appoint women of the middle class, between the age of thirty and forty years, for the care of the imbecile and senile insane, and to entrust the care of the others to well-educated young women, to whom is given a training and a certificate. As matters are standing now a great number of the lower class, uneducated nurses get a certificate as mental nurse and take up private nursing, doing much harm. We should very much like to know how matters are managed in other countries; will you help us to get that information by publishing our question in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING?

Believe me, yours very sincerely,

J. C. VAN LANSCHOT HUBRECHT.

Amsterdam, 85, Nic. Maestraat.

[We hope very much that this letter may receive expert consideration. Wonderful progress

has been made in this country and elsewhere in recent years in the nursing of the insane, and we feel sure Miss Lanschot Hubrecht will make very good use of information sent to her, either direct or through this journal.—ED.]

THE GRADING OF THE ENGLISH HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Would you be kind enough to explain the grading of the English hospitals? We have many English nurses apply for admission to the Central Registry, and our ignorance of English training schools makes it difficult for us to know whom to accept.

Are the Poor Law Infirmaries, for instance, the Greenwich and Parish of Bermondsey, London, the Ashton-under-Lyne, the Stapleton Workhouse Infirmary of Bristol, the Mill Road and Walton Infirmaries of Liverpool, and the Wolverhampton Union Infirmary, among your recognised general hospitals or are these Poor Law Infirmaries satisfied to take as nurses women who would not be accepted in other hospitals?

We expect soon to have Registration for nurses in Canada, and wish to keep the standard high.

Any information you can give us will be most gratefully received.

Sincerely yours,

(MISS) MARGARET EWING,
Registrar.

Central Registry of Graduate Nurses,
Toronto, Canada.

[This letter was addressed to the President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. AS THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the National Council we direct attention to it in these columns.—ED.]

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT.

Lincoln.—The Rev. T. G. Cree, Hon. Secretary Church Penitentiary Association, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, the Secretary of the National Union of Trained Nurses, 39, Great Smith Street, Westminster, and the Secretary National Union of Women Workers, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W., or the Secretary White Cross League, 17, Dean's Yard, Westminster, could supply literature of the kind you desire.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

August 16th.—What are the signs and symptoms of puerperal sepsis? How does the condition originate? What precautions would you take to prevent its occurrence?

August 23rd.—What are some of the conditions under which tracheotomy is performed? How would you prepare for the operation?

August 30th.—What is the most urgent emergency with which you have had to deal, and how did you meet it?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)