

nurse," trained in London. How long, how long is this abominable injustice going to be done to us nurses who have spent our years and strength in getting our full three years' general training, and adding specialities after? And how long will the public put up with this wicked state of affairs? A relative of mine—a very well-known specialist—came to London for an operation, and entered a Nursing Home. Big doctor though he was, they put on an uncertificated nurse for him; but they had mistaken their man. He enquired as to her training, and finding it, to say the least, *incomplete*, he gave them a piece of his mind.

Of course, no one has time to show this poor little "Pro." how to do things. She is put on to carry trays, do slops, wash up dressing trays without the faintest idea of surgical cleanliness (thank goodness I don't need a dressing, for neither hands nor dressings are rendered sterile! If I did I should, of course, move elsewhere. The one thing that keeps me is the wonderful personality of the doctor who sent me here, his unremitting care, without which I should not be above ground now, his ready tact and sympathy, and the absolute confidence his presence inspires.

Dear Editor, my blood *boils*. We are trying so hard against such tremendous odds, such a terrible weight of indifference among nurses, and opposition among doctors, *specially* some of the women doctors in our possessions beyond the seas, to give our nurses a high standard of training, and ideal of the ethics of our dear profession, and we come home to find—just this: Nurses taking the chief post in such a place as this not even *asking* whether the nurse they temporarily engage is trained. (One did very foolish things, and I enquired where she was trained. They hadn't asked, but she came from a place where nurses stay!!!); advertising in the lay (so-called) nursing papers, and, in fact, doing everything that goes against the body, soul and spirit of all that is best in the nursing profession and in such stray patients as myself who may happen to come their way.

Those of us who *do* care, to whom the welfare of our profession and the good of the public is the very breath of our nostrils, *must* be up and doing, and yet we are so entirely helpless against the determined opposition of our "Parliament of the People" to give us women any of the common justice they mete out to common labourers, being *men* and having a *vote*.

Who would not be a Suffragist, having tasted and experienced for many years the biting injustices we women workers have to labour under? And the more highly educated and the better blood and traditions you have in your veins the more the iron enters your soul.

If State Registration on a recognised minimum training is not speedily granted to the nursing profession, the authorities will have something to answer for. But to expect any righteous dealing from the present Government after recent revelations is more than any sane mortal can expect.

Yours faithfully,

AN ARDENT WORKER AND A PRESENT SUFFERER.

### A QUESTION ?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Is bi-carbonate of soda an advisable remedy for the pain of indigestion? It is so universally used and recommended by nurses that one finds it taken habitually by the lay public.

Personally, I have known so many cases of permanent injury to the stomach by this practice, that wherever I see it used I always point out the attendant danger. Amongst others, I remember the case of an old doctor who had so injured the lining membrane of the stomach by taking sodii bicarb that he was a helpless invalid for years before he died.

It is easy to understand such injury, seeing the nature of this powder. One has only to try its effect on badly tarnished silver to realise what its action may be on a delicate membrane, more especially in the case of babies.

Essence of peppermint is quite safe to use, and is equally effective. If taken in the form of home-made peppermint creams, it is even pleasant to take.

I am, Yours faithfully,

MENA BIELBY.

[Other letters are unavoidably held over for want of space.—ED.]

### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Charge Nurse, London.*—If you watch the daily papers you will see many cheap excursions advertised covering the period of your holiday, which would bring lovely places within your means which otherwise would cost more than you can afford. In this way you could get the thorough mental change you need.

*Ward Sister, Bristol.*—The services of some nurses are at the disposal of the Servian sick and wounded, for Madame Grouitch, wife of the Servian Charge d'Affaires, has left London for Belgrade, accompanied by three trained nurses, who will work in one of the military hospitals.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*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?

### 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, and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)