

compelled by the existing legislature to apply for posts of which the authorities "are bound to confess the salary is modest."

I did not succumb to the temptation "Pussy" did; in fact, there *was* no temptation as far as I was concerned. I must do my best or leave it—and I left it. With what result? I am at present without a post, although I have next to no means beyond the salary I must earn, and with a heart that refuses to respond to treatment to recover it from the bitter experiences and work of the last few years. Who cares? An incompetent person has replaced me, who refuses to make "any hard and fast rules," in case the Committee, now wide awake, should find she too has a standard and "ideals" and a conscience towards her patients and probationers. A friend writes me: "We have to fight for any position we are able to make for ourselves, and then to see the incapable and unworthy step in, enjoy a few years' easily-earned income (the salary in this case has been well raised since my resignation!), let everything get into a muddle, and no one is found to straighten it out again. I don't think they want thoroughness at all, only for things to run smoothly—at any cost." The consequence is the best women are being put on the shelf, to see the less capable step in and demolish the work that has cost them their life's blood, literally, and the ungrudging outpouring of their best and deepest self.

Is not this sort of thing enough to make every professional woman in the land a red hot ardent Suffragist and Suffragette? I am tired of the people who have never had their spirits seared with this kind of treatment by *male* Committees, and lay Committees, talking in their easy circumstances and unruffled lives of "those wicked women"!

Until we are *permitted* by present male monopoly of government to manage our own affairs, women of the highest aspirations, deepest conscientiousness and love for their work for the sick and suffering will continue to be "Squeezed Oranges," "Pussys," &c., as

Yours sincerely,

"SEARED BUT UNDAUNTED."

STANDARDS OF TRAINING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I inquire if I have any right to protest against a growing grievance in the hospital in which I am a sister. When first appointed the time of training for all probationers was three years, so that several of those in my wards were more or less useful—the new pros. being in the minority, and all teaching benefitting sisters and the hospital equally, and giving us less anxiety and responsibility. Now, owing to an outside Nursing Federation which employs nurses in rural districts after a few months' training, we have a number of very illiterate young women admitted as probationers for a few months who cannot attain an efficient standard of proficiency

in the time at their disposal, and the cramming and supervision of whom is a constant worry to the sisters. They come in and out and are really no use to the nursing department—indeed, quite the reverse, and add enormously to the work of the sisters and staff nurses. I believe the hospital is paid for "training" these district nurses, but our salaries have not been raised for doing the work. They are sent by influential county ladies, who really know nothing of nursing, I believe in opposition to the advice of our matron.

Yours truly,

HOSPITAL SISTER.

[We fear you have no redress; the Committee has entire power to make what nursing arrangements it thinks fit, whether they are good, bad, or indifferent. We know several matrons who have to accept this system of which they naturally disapprove. We know others who have been able to prevent it. If every sister in the hospital would agree to ask for a rise of salary for the increased teaching duties and extra work expected of them in superintending illiterate subordinates, the request should be sent in to the Committee through the matron. Do not grumble and be discontented, but appeal as a matter of business in a dignified way.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Health Visitor.—You can obtain a leaflet on Rural Housing by the Hon. Mrs. Gell, from the Secretary, N.U.W.W. Parliament Buildings, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Price 1s. per 100 copies.

Sister C.—Apply to the Secretary, Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, S.W.

M. F. T. (Birmingham).—With such a physical disability, nursing is not work for which you are fitted. Typing would not be so trying for you.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

August 2nd.—Describe your happiest holiday.

August 9th.—How would you nurse a case of acute nephritis?

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?

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