

it all their own way. I have quite recently been in correspondence with a very eminent and influential Church dignitary, who had seen Lord Knutsford's letter to *The Times*, and questioned me about it. I briefly replied that it was true that the Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was opposed to State Registration, but that the 700 League Nurses were in favour of it.

My correspondent is a very busy man, but he is a lover of justice; he wrote back to me at once just these words, and nothing else, "*Your Bart's argument is a crusher.*" My correspondent means to be our friend, and I know we can trust him.

Yours very hopefully in the Cause,
BEATRICE KENT.

Coliseum Terrace, N.W.

DO MATRONS WISH TO RETIRE?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—The issue of February 14th is to hand to-day, and I have been specially interested in Miss Mollett's article "Retired." Her description of her roses, and the country view, makes one long for English scenery. But—I wonder how many of us will agree with her? I am, I suppose, "a middle-aged Matron,"—doesn't it sound appalling?—but my earnest desire is to be taken from my work, and not it taken from me—voluntarily or involuntarily.

I no longer hope to set the world to rights, but I do want to go on setting to rights the corner that has been given into my charge, and make the way easier for those who come after, and to begin to build up a band of nurses who will be a credit to the profession both as regards training and work, and steadfastness of character.

It would be interesting to know which view our colleagues take; I expect a fair proportion on each side.

Yours sincerely,
S. GRACE TINDALL,
Matron and Lady Superintendent,
Masina Hospital, Bombay.
Hon. Sec., Trained Nurses Assn.
of India.

Bombay.

NIGHT NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—My attention has been called to the following statement which is reported to have been made by me at an inquest on March 7th at Hackney. Dr. Brander: "There is no hospital or infirmary in the country where there are fully-trained nurses in charge at night, &c." I hope you will afford me an opportunity of correcting this, which is erroneous and throws a slur, not only upon the excellent work of every general hospital, but also upon infirmaries. The inquest was on an old woman who was an inmate of a ward in the infirmary reserved exclusively for infirm patients. The nurse, who was only relieving at the time the accident happened, was a junior probationer, and this fact naturally raised numerous questions in the minds of the jury.

One of the jurymen remarked, during my cross-examination, that "only trained nurses and not probationers should be employed for night duty." To which I replied: "There is no hospital or infirmary in the country where there are *only* fully trained nurses on night duty."

When attending the inquest I was very ill, and have since been confined to bed. Consequently I have no doubt that I was not distinctly heard; but that is what I said, and not as reported. In hospitals where every patient suffers from an acute medical or surgical disease, each ward, of course, has its fully trained nurse as well as one or more probationers. The same holds good in all "acute" wards in infirmaries but in certain wards at Hackney Infirmary where the patients have chronic ailments, e.g., leg ulcers, mild skin diseases, &c., a probationer is, at present, in attendance at night and she is visited hourly by a fully trained Sister.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

WM. BRANDER, M.D.

Medical Superintendent Hackney Infirmary.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sister P., London.—The Children's Sanatorium at Holt, Norfolk, is an admirably managed institution where any child would be well taken care of. We should advise you to write to the Sister-in-Charge for terms, &c.

Miss J. Preston, Birmingham.—As you are too young to be accepted as a probationer at a general hospital, you could usefully fill in your time by entering a children's hospital for training, and then pass on to a general hospital later. The hospital to which you refer is of good standing as a training school.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

March 28th.—What are the characteristics of the urine in (a) fevers, (b) acute Bright's disease, (c) diabetes mellitus, (d) diabetes insipidus, (e) cystitis.

April 4th.—How would you nurse a Rest Cure case?

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