

quite empty when she was out of it. No one adored her more than the house-staff—and if on appointment they were “uppish, unpunctual, exacting and rude” they speedily mended their manners. She had a lovely soothing effect upon uncouth persons of either sex. No younger woman could do the work better, because no one could have a younger and more buoyant spirit, but no doubt routine and monotony are not to be endured for a whole lifetime by so appreciative a nature.

Yours truly,  
“NOT GENEROUS BUT JUST.”

[“How easy it is for one benevolent being to diffuse pleasure around him; and how truly is a kind heart a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity to freshen into smiles.”—*Washington Irving*.—Ed.]

#### GOING ON ALL THE TIME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Many young women who apply to me for training “have done a little nursing” before they come, and as their experiences throw some light on the present chaotic condition of nursing I have dotted down a few, thinking they might be of general interest. The fact that girls have to fill in some years between leaving school and being old enough to enter a good training school has much to do with the case. It is, however, the sick people who are, apparently, so ill-served, especially those who pay for “skilled nursing.”

No. 1, Aged 20.—Employed in “high class” Nursing Home as Probationer for eight months; helped in theatre, dressed in uniform; on night duty alone after four months, three or four serious cases in separate rooms. Sent out alone in charge of mental case. Paid £10.

No. 2, Aged 18.—Been probationer in cottage hospital one year; left in charge during absence of Matron; been on night duty alone off and on for six months; operations and accidents to attend to. Washed bandages, dusters, and glass cloths in same utensil. Did not know weights and measures, or relative strength of any disinfectant! Paid £10.

No. 3, Aged 20.—Been in general hospital, probationer four months; health failed. Been on list of an agency for servants and nurses. Taken several private cases at 25s. a week; paid agency 10 per cent. Wore uniform, called “trained nurse.” “Felt in the wrong,” anxious to qualify thoroughly.

No. 4.—Worked in a private asylum. No training; charge of dangerous lunatics. Wore uniform. Employed by lady (untrained), who took lunatics from London doctor at health resort; patients much neglected. Trained nurses objected to, knew too much. Paid £18.

Surely State Registration would put an end to such a condition of affairs!

Yours truly,  
HOSPITAL MATRON.

[This sort of thing is going on all the time.—ED.]

#### SAD INDEED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I know you will regret to hear that after all my work to have this Board recognise the three years' certificate of training for our nursing staff, at our last meeting we had to rescind that resolution and appoint a nurse with a lesser qualification, for the simple reason that we are not able to get thoroughly trained nurses for our Infirmary. This is indeed sad—when a Board of Guardians is not only willing but anxious to give the patients the best nursing possible. The Board agreed that they will never be able to get what they need until State Registration becomes an accomplished fact.

Yours truly,  
A WOMAN GUARDIAN.

#### HOW DIFFERENT EVERYTHING WOULD BE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Once more I beg to thank you for all you do for nurses all over the world, and to hope that you will soon be successful in your efforts for State Registration. If only we women had the vote how different everything would be. I have just returned from India, where I have had THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING sent for so many years.

Yours very truly,  
Waldeck Road, South Tottenham. S. R. E. SMITH.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Correspondent (Cardiff)*.—Our correspondent in Cardiff, who gives no name or address, can obtain this JOURNAL at No. 6, High Street, Cardiff; or direct from the Manager, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price, Twelve Months, 6s. 6d.; Six Months, 3s. 6d.; Three Months, 1s. 9d.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*May 2nd*.—How is Medical Asepsis maintained?

*May 9th*.—Under what conditions are nutritive enemas given? (a) How are they given? (b) How often? (c) Give a formula for same.

#### NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

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