

for the poorest of the poor, many of them most admirably trained, not only in theoretical and practical nursing, but in those virtues—nursing virtues.

What a self-interested and selfish way to consider this question of Nurses' Registration; short-sighted, too. We are not only "classed with infirmity nurses," but with Queenie Gerald, and Nurse Betty and Gloria Leslie, M.A. and other ladies of easy virtue and light fingers, and are, moreover, only domestic servants, *in law*. The "only infirmity nurses" argument has, however, been very effective, and the majority of our nurses signed like "the meekest of sheep."

Yours truly,
A BELIEVER IN LEGAL STATUS.

FREE RIDES FOR RED CROSS WORKERS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The free rides granted by the L.C.C. and other transport Companies to Territorials in uniform, and to Red Cross workers seem to me likely to lead to much abuse, *not* by the Territorials as no one may copy their uniform, but by unauthorized wearers of the Red Cross. Anyone may buy and wear a nurse's uniform and have a big red cross emblazoned on it. How, then, are the tram and 'bus conductors to know the false from the true? We nurses know from very bitter experience how the once honoured uniform of the trained nurse has been dragged in the mire and how thoroughly trained and honourable women have to endure all kinds of unpleasant things because there are no legal means of dissociating the true from the false.

Therefore *we* realize only too well how quickly any privilege granted to legitimate wearers of the Red Cross will be taken advantage of by the unscrupulous unless means are taken to prevent it.

I suggest that a stamped card be issued by the companies willing to grant such workers facilities, to the Red Cross Committee to be stamped and given by it to their authorized workers and only on the production of this card should fares be remitted.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
M. BURR.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Probationer (Leeds).—Ptomaine poisoning is due to poisonous foods. A few hours after eating such foods nausea supervenes, and usually purging, followed by faintness, weak pulse, cold, moist skin, and sometimes a bright red rash.

Mental Nurse.—It has been found that cases of marked depression in mental wards do best in the presence of those of more excitable temperament, and in a well arranged classification of patients, Dr. Robert Jones advocates placing cases of mania and melancholia in the same ward. One provides the complement of the other.

Dietitian (Leamington).—Nuts have a high nutritive value, but they are rather hard to digest. Flour made from almonds is often used in making diabetic bread and cakes.

NOTICES.

The Editor is receiving a large number of letters requiring replies. Will correspondents note that it is impossible to reply to them unless a stamp is enclosed?

WHERE TO VOLUNTEER.

Nurses wishing to volunteer for active service must do so at the office of the British Red Cross Society, which is now established at Devonshire House, Piccadilly, W., by the kindness of the Duke of Devonshire, who has placed the whole of the ground floor at the disposal of the Committee. Devonshire House is easily identified by the Red Cross flag which floats over it. Nurses engaged in hospitals or on the staffs of Private Nursing Institutions, or District Nursing Associations, should first get the assent of the Matron or Superintendent.

The Medical Department of the Admiralty state that many applications are made there by nurses of varying qualifications. The authorities are not in need of nurses, or desirous of enrolling them, and it is unlikely that their services will be utilized if offered there.

Many hundreds of applications are also made at the War Office. In both instances application should be made through the British Red Cross Society.

Applications for enrolment in the International Nursing Corps for Active Service in War, from three years' certificated nurses, should be made at the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London.

The National Union of Trained Nurses are using their Central Office at 39, Great Smith Street, Westminster, as a clearing house for trained nurse volunteers.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will encourage her friends to subscribe for it, so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support. Don't forget that it is the only weekly journal edited by a trained nurse, and which supports (1) an efficient standard of Nursing Education, (2) State Registration of Nurses, and (3) Just Economic Conditions for Nurses.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

August 29th.—State what you know about Pemphigus, and the midwife's duty in connection with it.

September 5th.—What precautions may be adopted to minimize the danger to the patient in the case of a wound which has been exposed to infection.

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