

DEAR MADAM,—The Nurses at the Nurses' Home, 5, Endsleigh Street, are very indignant at the letter in the Press proposing "to train unemployed servants as emergency nurses for hospital work." They think the best thing is to send the letter to you so that you can deal with it.

Yours faithfully,

HELEN B. SIMPSON.

London.

DEAR MADAM,—How is it that rich and leisured women of title arrogate to themselves the right to interfere with our skilled work of which they know nothing, and venture to propose that unemployed servants (those worth their salt will be kept at all costs by their present employers) shall be "trained" for use in hospitals? It is quite bad enough as it is when, owing to unfair economic conditions, the right sort of educated women fail to respond in sufficient numbers as hospital probationers. If the lower class domestic servant, for whom housekeepers have no use, are to be thrust into hospital work, God help the patients, for educated women will cease to apply at all. Conditions need improving, not degrading.

Yours truly,

MARIAN SCOTT,
Sister.

Birmingham.

[We entirely sympathise with our correspondents, and regret we have not space for other letters received on the same matter. It is not because a woman is a servant that we feel the suggestion made by the Duchess of Marlborough, the Countess of Selborne, Lady St. Helier, and Lady Emmott is wrong, but because nursing is highly skilled work, requiring highly cultured women of liberal education as its exponents, and until the class from which our surplus domestics are drawn are better educated and more refined, they are not capable of assimilating the theory of nursing, or of performing the practical duties in the best possible manner. We are all for raising all women by more thorough general education, so that all may have a fair chance of preferment, but that has got to be done by wiser educational systems than are in force in this country. We advise the writers to express their opinions by letter to the Secretary of the Domestic Servants' Association, 52, Portland Place, London, W., and we hope the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of Poor Law hospitals will stand by the rank and file, of the nursing profession and prevent this attempt to depreciate their highly skilled work.—Ed.]

RED CROSS PUPILS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I say I have found the Red Cross pupils working in this hospital of a much better class than the average young woman who has recently applied to me for training. I am hoping to persuade several desirable girls to enter for the three years' training, and leave playing around and wasting their time.

Yours truly,

A COUNTY HOSPITAL MATRON.

ENCOURAGING APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me to express my thanks and appreciation to the clever nurses who contribute the papers to your Prize Competition?

The parts quoted from the "Honourable Mentions" on Shock seem to me to be especially good and practical; Miss Amy Phipps unusually so.

One cannot help feeling that if nurses prepared their patients against shock, and promptly recognised the first symptoms when they appeared, the (often to the patient) terrifying performances that have to be resorted to would often not be necessary. Of course, I know the patient should not be allowed to see what is going on. But my experience is that when a patient requires extreme measures to be taken for shock or anything else, and the ward is chiefly staffed with nurses in training, proper precautions are very rarely taken to prevent him seeing. Also, while I have dozens of probationers who quickly learn to repeat with astonishing accuracy just what produces shock, those who learn how to deal with it quickly, quietly and successfully are rare indeed.

Yours truly,

SISTER OF WOMEN'S SURGICAL WARD.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mrs. William Harold Klosz (Bombay).—So far we have received no intimation from Miss Dock of the postponement of the International Council Meeting at San Francisco in June, 1915. We must await events.

Sister T.—Consult the Matron.

M.B.F.—We do not think you ought to resign during the mobilisation of the hospital in which you are working. You are doing your country's work; forget yourself, and be grateful for the call; many women long for the chance which is yours.

Miss Kingsford.—Your letter will appear next week. We observe that at the meeting of Guardians following the inquest, they agreed to ignore the recommendation of the jury. It is the duty of the Local Government Board to interfere.—Ed.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

October 3rd.—Mention four classes of wounds and how they may be caused.

October 10th.—Give the items for a seven days' satisfying diet, for wounded soldiers on Full Diet, in a Territorial Hospital, for breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper. Give the approximate cost for twenty men.

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The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will encourage her friends to subscribe to it. Address the Manager, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

previous page

next page