

wives as well as others less advantageously housed, would teach their daughters from their youth up, good and industrious habits, we Matrons should be saved an enormous amount of trouble in breaking probationers of idle and thriftless ways, including the care of their bed-rooms, personal niceties (such as well brushing and keeping tidy their hair—often greatly neglected and hideously dressed), good manners at table, care of table linen, floors and furniture. If only mothers would send us refined and womanly girls to train, how happy should we Matrons be!

Yours truly,  
POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRON.

#### AMATEUR NURSES FOR THE TROOPS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have heard of several girls, who have gone to the front, after having only taken their certificates for Red Cross lectures.

On one occasion the girl in question obtained her passport on the excuse that she had left some luggage in Paris; another said she wanted to cross to her wounded father—any excuse suffices. One girl about whom I have heard is only 20. She was left in charge of over 40 men and has been backwards and forwards alone with the wounded on several occasions. She is untrained. I have been told this in confidence by her friend so must not disclose the name. Lady Diana Manners, who is now taking a three months' course at a London Hospital, is about to cross with two girls similarly trained and one who has only attended the Red Cross lectures. She is financed by friends and is going to open a hospital, I think, at Dieppe!

What can these fashionable and untrained girls know of nursing. Will not their very presence at such a time be a great source of danger?

Many of these young girls thirst for excitement, and now that there is a lack of that in their own country, they seek it amongst our wounded at the front.

We, who have been through years of training and have had much experience, feel this is a matter which needs looking into by someone with influence.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.

#### REGISTER UNIFORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your Journal of November 7th I notice a letter published by Miss Beatrice Kent to Lord Kitchener. She wisely and rightly protests against the indiscriminate selection of all sorts and conditions of women to nurse the sick since the War broke out. She asserts that "State Registration of Nursing would prevent all this kind of irregularity."

Do you not think that it would be a step in the right direction to register the *uniform*? Registration of the *individual* will never prevent women

with means and influence from going to the front in times of war and excitement, but they ought to be prevented from masquerading in our hard-earned uniforms and wearing an emblem (the Red Cross) so sacred to all earnest workers.

Yours faithfully,  
A READER.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Superintendent (London).*—The War Office has notified that the maximum weight of a single parcel for parcel post is at present limited to 7 lbs. Heavier packages can still be sent, care of the Military Forwarding Officer, at Southampton. Plum puddings, *in tins*, not exceeding in weight 7 lbs., may be sent through the Parcels Post.

*Sister (Birmingham).*—The minimum qualification for the French Flag Nursing Corps is a three years' certificate in a general adult hospital or infirmary of good standing. Massage is an invaluable additional qualification, also a knowledge of French. Age preferred from 28 to 40. Earnest women, not seeking excitement, but willing to be helpful, and who can realise the tragedy of War, are those selected for this Corps.

*E. M. W., London.*—The price of the "Medical Dictionary for Nurses," by Miss A. E. Pope, published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons is 3s. 6d.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

##### QUESTIONS.

*December 12th.*—What is acute nephritis? Name two causes. Outline briefly the treatment?

*December 19th.*—When is drainage used and why? (a) Name four methods and material that may be employed?

*December 26th.*—Define the words (a) sterile; (b) asepsis; (c) disinfectants; (d) sterilization; (e) what is most effective?

##### NOTICE.

We regret that in the notice of Miss A. E. Pope's "Medical Dictionary for Nurses," which formed the subject of our review last week, that the printers should have dropped out the first figure of the price. This has been fixed at 3s. 6d., and we can sincerely say it is cheap at the price. It is published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons' 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.

#### 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.

*previous page*

*next page*