

hospitals for the sick, with or without Nurse Training Schools attached, and in this position women of the world, with wide social influence and sympathies, such as a large number of our aristocracy possess, would be invaluable, but we claim that Nursing, since founded by Florence Nightingale on scientific principles, has become highly technical skilled work, with far-reaching educational and economic interests, and that only those women, whatever their social standing may be, who are thoroughly trained and experienced, should hold positions of authority in institutions organised for the care of the sick, in general or military hospitals. We have accepted the courteous invitation of the Duchess of Bedford to inspect her hospitals, and hope to do so at an early date. Every true woman's heart is stirred with sympathy for our sick and wounded soldiers; all classes therefore should co-operate, each giving the best that is in them to make the nursing of our soldiers as efficient as possible. We trained nurses have much to give of expert knowledge, and only long to place it at the disposal of the War Office at this great crisis. If those in authority on the Army Council will follow the sensible example of the Duchess of Bedford and invite professional opinion they will learn something to their advantage. This was our reason for proposing to the Director General, Army Medical Service, that an Expert Committee on Nursing should be appointed, representative of the various departments which are now engaged in organising the nursing of the sick and wounded, to enquire and report on the present conditions of nursing in Military Auxiliary Hospitals in the United Kingdom, in order that they may be efficiently organised.

Lady Mackinnon, Government House, Chester, has also most kindly expressed her wish to show us the Red Cross Hospitals of 70 beds in which she is actively interested, each of which we gather has a trained Matron in charge, and a staff of Sisters and Nurses. Lady Mackinnon's experience on the Committee of the Territorial Force Nursing Service for the City and County of London, and on one of its sub-committees, has brought her into intimate touch with the aspirations of trained nurses in this connection.—Ed.]

TRUE TALES WITH A MORAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Throughout this county there is a trained nurse in charge in Red Cross Hospitals and a V.A. orderly to nearly every patient! Here is a little story: The Sister had given a patient an enema and told the V.A. orderly to keep the result for her to see; later, she asked to see the result, and was shown the remainder of the injection! A patient has also been wakened to give him a sleeping draught much to his annoyance!

Yours truly, M. B.

[The system in many Red Cross hospitals permits of far too many absolutely new probationers (orderlies) to one trained nurse. The

latter cannot possibly supervise every detail—and the prevention of mistakes by quite ignorant people is a work in itself under existing arrangements. Sleeping draughts should not be given by untrained nurses. With the best intentions in the world accidents are sure to happen where a trained nurse has more than two or three raw probationers to teach and supervise. It is not considered safe in general hospitals and should not be risked in military hospitals.—Ed.]

A REAL GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was most indignant to-day when I saw a parlourmaid run across the road in an Army Nurse's cap to post a letter. It is disgraceful to think that an Army Nurse's uniform should be so abused, especially at a time like the present. Any civilian appearing in the uniform of a Government official would be punished at once. It's extraordinary how difficult they find it to treat women justly in this respect, but until we have the Vote and State Registration I'm afraid these things will never be looked at from the right point of view. Can nothing be done at all in the meantime?

Yours truly,

"TRAINED NURSE."

Tresco, Avenue Road, Torquay.

CAST-OFF GLOVES REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Do you think any of your readers could find some cast-off kid or leather gloves? If so, they still want *dozens and dozens* at 75, Chancery Lane, W.C.

The Ladies Territorial Committee are making windproof undercoats for the men watching our coasts this bitter weather, and they plead for more and more—and more gloves. Even fur linings are not despised. Coats are on view at 75, Chancery Lane, and perhaps when all our men have been supplied these wonderful specimens of "something out of nothing much" will find their way even farther afield.

Yours truly,

Galea House, Guildford.

E. M. W.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To Girl of 18.—(1) We consider the years between 18 and 21 should be spent if possible in gaining a broad outlook. That of a girl who takes up institution work at 18 is necessarily restricted. Why not adopt some other occupation for the next three years, and also endeavour to learn a foreign language? (2) We entirely agree with you as to training in a nursing home. (3) We quite approve of the hospital you mention, and the open air life is very healthy.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

February 13th.—Give symptoms and treatment of opium poisoning.

February 20th.—What is Septic Pneumonia; how should it be treated?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)