

HUMAN VANITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It would, of course, be hopeless to discount the power of personal vanity in the assumption of our professional work and titles by the Society woman. One way to bring order out of chaos would be for the War Office to decree that all voluntary hospitals at the Front, supervised by the untrained, should be known by numbers, as the Expeditionary Force Military Hospitals are. Such a step would soon stop this latest Society fad of running hospitals for the wounded, to which each lady is permitted to attach her own name, although the public pays the piper. I have lately returned from nursing in a "Society hospital" in France, and from observation am of opinion that the War Office should at once make itself responsible for the lot—have them officially inspected by a trained nursing inspector, and either shut down or reorganise those which are not up to Expeditionary Force standard.

Yours truly,
A. N. S. R.

ARE WE UNDERMINING OUR STANDARDS?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest and gratitude that you had sent a statement to the Director of the Army Medical Service at the War Office, on the question of nursing in Red Cross Hospitals. Surely the whole system on which they are worked is wrong, and the nurses are wrong to bolster it up. With *one* trained nurse, and perhaps no night nurse, taking all the real responsibility for the patients, covering the unskilled work of V.A.D.'s, we are cutting the ground beneath our own profession. If we refused to accept such a position the War Office would have to look into the system, and alter it, and we should not be acting in an unprofessional way as we are now.

Yours truly,
THE ONLY ONE.

HOURLY DREAD OF ACCIDENTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In flooding hundreds of hospitals with untrained nurses surely the medical profession is not playing fair. They won't meet quacks themselves, why should they expect trained nurses to do so? Moreover, why should we have to do all the anxious supervision and live in hourly dread of accidents? The doctors owe us more consideration, but it seems until we assert ourselves, we may just go on preventing accidents and getting neither thanks nor credit. I know of several cases in which the doctors have required trained nurses to teach the V.A.D.'s to do the patients' dressings, and where they have refused for the sake of the soldiers. This makes us very unpopular; it is most unfair.

Yours sincerely,
MEMBER BART'S LEAGUE.

HOW CAN WE JOIN?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It seems hopeless to wait for our Matrons to start Nurses' Leagues, so few of them seem to take any interest in our professional rights and privileges. The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was not taken in the recreation room in the hospital where I was trained, as journals edited by untrained people were. There was no soul in these publications, just gossip and advertisements, nothing to satisfy an educated woman, who nourished ambitions for the uplift and progress of trained nursing. How should there be? [How indeed?—Ed.] It was not until I left that hospital, and began school nursing, that I began to read your journal weekly, and I now read it from cover to cover. I find just the sentiments I enjoy: Now I am working in a Red Cross Hospital—and I find I am not a member of the National Council of Nurses, which has had the courage to point out to the War Office the disorganization of these places. How can I become a member and thus support the demand for efficient nursing, cleanliness, and discipline here? The whole system is wrong, and every really patriotic nurse ought to help to put it right.

Yours truly,
SISTER IN RED CROSS HOSPITAL.

[We have had several letters from time to time asking this same question, and intend at the next meeting of the Council to submit a proposal to gather in individual thoughtful nurses, who want to help the forward policy of the N.C.T.N. and at present have a difficulty in doing so, unless they become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.—Ed.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss W. T. (*Tooting*).—Apply to Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent of Nurses under the London County Council, 2, Savoy Hill, W.C. (Education Offices). It is the duty of the School Nurse to visit the schools, or clinic assigned to her, and to carry out her duties under the direction of the Medical Officer—these duties often include some home visiting. Hours on duty, 9-5; with an hour off for dinner. In addition, there are reports to be written at home. Part uniform is given. In the open air schools, the hours on duty are longer. In the provinces, application should usually be made to the Education Committee, or to the Medical Officer of Health in the place desired.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.**QUESTIONS.**

January 16th.—For what conditions is tracheotomy done, and what instruments are required for the operation? Describe the after care of the patient.

January 23rd.—Discuss the management of a patient whose tongue has been excised?

January 30th.—Mention the most delectable drinks for invalids, and how to make them.

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