

bedclothes to stifle his mirth. This incident seems impossible, but is true.

Yours sincerely,  
ARMY RESERVE.

[We think this poor girl had been unfortunate in her home training.—ED.]

#### COME AND HELP.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I support the plea of "A Follower of Agnes Jones," that "genuinely sympathetic women" should come and help in improving the work in the smaller Poor Law institutions? Indeed, their services are most urgently needed, and it is impossible for us Poor Law nurses not to compare the neglect by educated women of our very poor sick in such places with the manner they rush into Red Cross and military hospitals. It may be natural, but it is far from commendable. We hear much of the selfishness and lack of sympathy of Poor Law officials, and, of course, some of them do appear to "batten" on the Poor Rates, but I have found the majority do their duty to the best of their ability, and we must not blame untrained people too much for not recognising the value of skilled nursing when the women of this country are so callous and neglectful of the uninteresting "pauper" patient.

Cigarettes, flowers and chocolates are conspicuous by their absence in this institution, and such gifts to many unfortunate people would sweeten their lives indeed. Those who really love their kind, come and help.

Yours truly,  
ANOTHER ADMIRER OF AGNES JONES.

#### THE FOLLY OF THE "HUSH" POLICY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your article on the Air Raid will be appreciated by thousands of women in England, but more especially by the Nurses who happened to be in the hospitals which have been damaged.

Personally, I think it is a crying scandal that we Britishers are living in a country of "make believe," for all the people who have had the awful experience of being raided know only too well how very untrue and glossed over are the Press reports *re* same.

It is incredible that five Zeppelins should actually penetrate the City of London without the knowledge of the "authorities of those responsible," until too late.

I fear the women of Great Britain cannot look to the present Government, either for protection or sympathy.

It seems to me, as long as "Government Buildings" are safe, it matters not how many hospitals and private houses are wrecked.

Personally, I think, had the Prime Minister been in my place when the first high explosive bomb dropped outside this hospital, he would be a little less optimistic—and perhaps, then, something might be done.

Thanking you for your sympathy, which I am sure we possess.

Yours very sincerely,  
A NIGHT SISTER.

#### INCREDIBLE FOLLY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—One often hears of the dangers of dummy teats for babies, but I have never seen them so strikingly demonstrated as the other day when I was in a railway carriage—the floor of which was not only thick with dust, but filthy. A woman with a bonny baby in her arms—probably about twelve months old—got in. Round the baby's neck was suspended the inevitable dummy. The mother put him down while she was arranging her belongings, and as he bent down the dummy trailed along the filthy floor. The woman then turned and popped the dummy into the child's mouth. I exclaimed, instantly, that it had been on the floor, but too late to save the situation. "Has it?" said the mother, calmly; "I didn't think it had." She then wiped the baby's mouth *outside*, rubbed the dummy on her handkerchief, and replaced it in the child's mouth. Would it be surprising if that baby got any kind of illness after such a procedure? and if it wasted away from tuberculosis, or developed diphtheria, or any other virulent disease, which proved fatal, the mother would, no doubt, weep and bewail the inscrutable ways of Providence—not in the least realising that not Providence, but her own incredible folly was responsible. How is the lesson to be brought home to the mothers of this country? This was quite a better-class woman—and the baby clean, well-dressed, well kept, and evidently cared for.

Yours faithfully,  
ASTOUNDED.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

October 2nd.—Tell what you know of any new hospital treatment.

October 9th.—What is preventive nursing, and how can it be employed for the good of the community?

October 16th.—Describe the most modern methods of treating Hip Disease.

#### TO HOSPITAL SECRETARIES AND SUPERINTENDENTS.

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