

raged at the way in which a uniform which ought to indicate that its wearer is a nurse, trained or in training, is used by every kind of woman for every kind of purpose, thereby depreciating its honourable significance and purpose.

Of course, the chief means we have of combating this abuse is to work unceasingly to secure the passage of our Registration Bill, for until nurses have legal status their professional standing will be subject to attack on all sides.

With registration there would not be the same inducement for untrained people to masquerade in our professional uniform, because as they could not, without legal penalty, pretend that they were registered nurses, there would not be the same reason for pretending that they were nurses.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARY JAMES.

A NET OF MONOPOLY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think that trained nurses have now realised how hopeless is their condition, as practically a monopoly of their work, not to say liberty of action, is so closely controlled by the Army Medical Service and the Red Cross Society. Any untrained respectable person who wants to go to France on business can do so as heretofore, so long as his passport is in order, but *thoroughly trained professional nurses* are harried on all sides by the War Office, Anglo-French Committee, and the Passport Office, who have combined to make it impossible for us to retain our liberty of action if we desire to work in France free of their control. My claim is that a trained nurse has as much right to go to a foreign country, if she wishes to serve there, as any other working woman, if her passport is in order, without being caught in a net of monopoly by the Red Cross Society just because her skill is specially useful to it. We shan't forget after the War the vexatious manner in which we have been treated and harassed by the civilians who have grasped all power over us. Nothing could be more typical than the manner in which our colleagues at the Endsleigh Palace Hospital have been treated by the vulgar rich. One of these injured women said to me, "Henceforth I am a Socialist," and another said, "As we came out into Whitehall after our appeal to the War Office I realised for the first time why the Suffragettes smashed Government windows." A good many nurses are beginning to realise it.

Yours truly,

THREE YEARS' CERT.

[The more we hear of the manner in which the Endsleigh Palace staff have been maligned and their characters vilified, the more we realise how dangerous it is for trained nurses to risk their good names in this institution, where apparently the "family committee" have *carte blanche* to treat them as they choose, although the British taxpayer, and not the Committee, pays something like £100 a week for its upkeep.—Ed.]

PLUMS FROM THE PUDDINGS OF THE POOR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A certain Board of Guardians recently decided it to be their unpleasant duty to, this Christmas, reduce the ample fare usually provided for officers and inmates. It was felt that while many ratepayers were so hardly pressed at this time, it was not fair that they should be asked to provide for others things that they could not procure for themselves. Many members of the Board associated themselves in the intention of abstemiousness in Christmas luxuries, and asked the household to be willing to do their "bit."

But while Guardians are engaged in extracting a percentage of plums from the puddings of the poor, our civic rulers are enjoying a banquet costing £850. *Inside* the Mansion House, turtle soup at £1 is a quart; *Outside*, a collecting box bearing a label, "For the starving in Belgium." Apparently, after these long months of splendid self-sacrifice from our lads at the Front, "Feed the brute" still holds good in high places.

I am, dear Madam,

"A MERE WOMAN."

[The City Fathers and their political guests have lost a glorious opportunity of practising what they preach. The price of a quart of turtle soup would keep twenty-one people in Poland from starvation for a week, and the cost of the banquet go far to provide the ambulances lacking which, the brave soldiers of our Belgian Allies, shattered with shell wounds, must lie out uncared for until past medical aid. It seems almost like murder to gobble up nearly a thousand pounds at one meal, considering the appalling conditions in which thousands of human beings exist at this crisis.—Ed.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An Admirer of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

—Please send name and address to the Editor, not for publication, but in order to comply with the rule of this Journal, as no anonymous letter is accepted for publication.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary, 60, Nevern Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, November 19th, and Monday, November 22nd, from 2.30 to 5 p.m., to see candidates, who must be well educated and hold a certificate for three years' general training, which they should bring for inspection. Experience in fever nursing is an additional advantage.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 27th.—What devices can a nurse employ in caring for a patient suffering from sleeplessness?

December 4th.—Outline the nursing care of exophthalmic goitre following operation.

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