

signed if a real trained nurse will look after my boy if he gets wounded."

Another said, "The work, no matter what it is, does me good, the harder the better. I prefer cleaning and serving meals, for I am neither a born nurse nor a trained one." Her husband lies buried in France.

Yours truly,

A TRAINED NURSE.

431, Oxford Street, W.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—It is, I think, a great aid to a just reply to the "precious" letter with the above title, that the authoress has concealed her identity under the *nom de plume* "V.A.D." It makes it so much easier to tell her that, whoever else she may be, whether Lady —, the Hon. Miss —, or even Miss —, she is not that "gem of purest ray serene," a gentlewoman. I have met gentlewomen in all classes of society; and, alas, have met snobs, I fear in much greater proportion.

Plenty of money and a good education are not certainly in "V.A.D.'s" case guarantees of really good breeding. There have been so many admirable replies from trained and V.A.D. nurses, that I am only concerned as a medical man, to refer to "V.A.D.'s" joy in the commendation of "leading doctors." That commendation has a very simple, and not very pleasing explanation. In a time like the present, when there are uniforms and military and naval titles for civilian doctors, there are some medical men—a small minority, I know—who play up to V.A.D. nurses of "the governing class"; waiting, with more solid hope than Mr. Micawber ever had, for "something to turn up" in the way of medical, and, above all, social advancement. One has to refer to this unpleasant aspect of the case from a doctor's point of view, because it is just the existence of this minority of the medical profession which evolves such a person as "V.A.D.," capable of writing such a vulgar letter.

A DOCTOR.

Birmingham.

#### OUR PROVERBIAL MUDDLING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—AS THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING appears to have the real interests of the Nursing profession at heart, may I claim a little space in which to put forward the injustice of present conditions to fever nurses. I was trained and certificated in a fever hospital in Scotland, an excellent hospital so far as practical experience in the nursing of infectious disease was concerned. We were also instructed in the theory of anatomy, hygiene, and surgical nursing, in which we were examined by the Local Government Board and certificated. When it was reported our soldiers and those of our Allies were suffering so much from fever I came to London and offered my services for typhoid in France. I was not sent, but have been doing surgical and other work in

small hospitals, whilst general trained nurses have been given fever work abroad, some, I know, who have never nursed a case of typhoid or infectious disease in their lives. Is this fair? At headquarters I was told "You are not a general trained nurse, so you are not eligible for Q.A.I.M.N.R.; those who are sent abroad must have general training (many sent have no training at all). Such nurses can pick up fever work." Now, there does seem some of our proverbial muddling in my case, which places me in a very disadvantageous position. Either I should not be led to believe that I am a trained nurse by the authorities of Fever Hospitals and the L.G.B., and I should have been advised to enter a hospital for general training—or "General" trained nurses should be made to realise they also have much to learn and are not thoroughly efficient unless they have practical experience of the nursing of infectious and other fevers. I intend to enter a general hospital in the near future, but find I must sign for a full three years' term or I cannot qualify for a certificate. Surely a wise scheme could be defined by a Registration Authority, which would obviate a six years' training—to qualify for a salary of £40 a year—as that is a quite good hospital salary. Hoping someone will sympathise with my plight,

I am, yours truly,

A POOR SPECIALIST.

#### PROTECTION OF INFANTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Will you permit me to draw the attention of your readers to the meeting at the Mansion House on June 27th, at 3.30 p.m., at which the Lord Mayor has consented to preside? The object is to assist the National Training School for District Midwives. At all times, but now especially, the work of those who attend a large percentage of women in their confinements and have charge of infants during the first and often critical ten days of their lives, is a matter of real national importance. To reduce infant mortality and to secure the greatest possible number of healthy children is a vital need having regard to the terrible loss of our best manhood, which must gravely affect the future progress of the country. A statement will be made by the hon. secretary Miss Alice Gregory on the progress of the institution.

Tickets can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich.

Yours obediently,

101, Onslow Square, S.W.

SYDENHAM.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

July 1st.—What points should a nurse attend to in the general management of a patient suffering from valvular disease of the heart?

July 8th.—Describe briefly the object and effects of vaccination. Describe the method of introducing the lymph and the stages of development in a successful vaccination.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)