

sider that, from a medical man, this uncalled-for glorification is most disloyal to the sister profession of trained nurses, and misleading to the lay mind as to the value and status of nursing training. No one would grudge the recognition of general intelligence and adaptability in a fellow-worker in any sphere; but such cannot take the place of professional training based on scientific principles, demanding both theoretical and practical knowledge as in the science and art of nursing. With a little more imagination the lecturer might have considered a tribute to the skilled sisters not altogether out of place, just to make things square anyway—as not only have they to consider the welfare and treatment of their patients, but have the additional responsibility of the training of unskilled workers under pressure of abnormal conditions, and the safeguarding of their patients against any drastic errors that may be committed (though unwittingly) by their heroic helpers.

I take this opportunity of enclosing a "mite" for the work of the cause, *i.e.*, State Registration, with hopes and best wishes that right and justice will win through soon.

Yours truly,

Edinburgh.

J. G. G.

[The following is the paragraph to which our correspondent naturally takes exception:—"No one can now look down on the work of the V.A.D. nurses," remarked Dr. Egbert Thompson in the course of a lecture which he delivered in St. Andrew's U.F. Hall, Edinburgh, yesterday afternoon. Dr. Thompson's lecture was devoted to an account of the work of the British Red Cross unit with the Italian Army in Gorizia. There are now four British units in Italy. The headquarters of the unit to which Dr. Thompson was attached were at San Giovanni, and their nursing staff included four sisters and sixteen V.A.D. nurses, who worked most heroically under the sisters. Doctors, he admitted, were loth to accept the assistance of the Volunteer Aid Detachment nurses, but in their experience they soon found out what they could do. With a little training under the skilled sisters their work was as good as it might have been had they passed through a full nursing course. The unit started with 25 beds, and their equipment had now increased to 130 beds, with sometimes 250 patients sleeping in the hospital, those who could not get beds being accommodated on mattresses on the floor. In the last rush, 400 cases were dealt with in three days. Many of the cases were simply dressed and sent on, and all had to be dressed once, and sometimes twice per day, and the V.A.D. nurses under the sisters attended to every one of the dressings, except the operated cases, in the most skilful manner. During a year's working 2,596 cases had been treated by the unit, and the 25 cars of the unit, each with accommodation for nine sitting cases, had carried 46,000 cases." We agree that it is very disloyal of a medical man to depreciate the skill which a trained nurse acquires after a long and arduous training, and incidentally to ignore trained nursing as highly scientific

work. The nursing provided by the British Red Cross Committee for the sick and wounded of the Italian Army should have been performed by highly qualified professional women, the rightful reward for efficiency, instead of by girls who have failed to train and make themselves *safe* attendants on the sick. But in this war the cream of active service abroad is lapped up by socially influential and self-sufficient women, and very blue skimmed milk allotted to the professional nurse. This is one of the big scandals of the war, which proves what a sham is our boasted democracy—and how dangerous it is for a woman's profession to be dominated by men.—ED.]

THE ORGANIZATION OF MASSAGE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—At a meeting held in Manchester to celebrate the establishment of a new Institute of Massage, the statement was made that there had been no proper organisation of the work up to the present time, also that there had been no standard of work. I should like to point out that there are already two thoroughly organised societies in the country, with the oldest and most experienced people at the head, having for their examiners members of the medical profession and masseuses of long experience and practice. There is no doubt that the best examiners in anatomy and physiology are members of the medical profession, but I think the doctors will agree with me when I say that those who are spending their lives in the work are the best examiners of practical massage.

Massage is an art and can only be successfully practised by those specially adapted to the work. As examining centres are needed all over the United Kingdom, it would have been much more useful, since a new Institute must start, to have started in another town and not in Manchester, where the National Association of Trained Masseuses and Masseurs has had an examining centre for five years, ever since its incorporation. The most modern methods are being used in massage, electricity, and Swedish Remedial exercises, in all the old-established colleges and schools of massage in the country, and the examinations of the two before mentioned societies are not only well organised but are quite up to date, the work including that bearing upon the wounds and other ailments of soldiers in hospitals.

Yours faithfully,

ESTHER J. BRUNT.

Middlesbrough.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 2nd.—For what conditions is blood transfusion used? Describe modern apparatus and methods.

December 9th.—Give two "practical points" making for comfort when nursing the sick, one for use in hospital wards, one in the home.

December 16th.—What is anæmia? (b) Why is diet an essential part of its treatment?

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