

deep gratitude for kindly deeds and for help in difficulties, which do not find their way into the columns of our nursing papers, but are given quietly, unostentatiously—as from one friend to another.

The magnificent work of the Matrons-in-Chief of the two Military Services will be more fully recognised and appreciated at its right value, when the war is ended, and full details of what has been achieved can be made public. Even now, we can form some estimate of the work accomplished.

The Regular Service and its Reserve has expanded from hundreds to many thousands of fully-trained women who are caring for our soldiers on battlefields practically all over the world. The Territorial Force Nursing Service has been called into being, and is now an actual living Service, nursing at least four times the number of beds originally intended.

Those of us who have stood by and watched the work of these two ladies have marvelled how it was possible that physical health and nervous system stood the strain of what was demanded from them.

If (and this is an "if" I desire to emphasise) it serves any good purpose that such criticisms should appear in our Nursing papers, and more particularly so in a time of great national trouble as at present, when responsibilities and anxieties are overwhelming, then surely in common justice, both sides of the picture should be presented.

I am, Yours truly,

R. A. COX-DAVIES.

[We may point out that our correspondent is a member of the small Nursing Board of ten persons who are in control of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and its Reserve, and that she is in part responsible for its conduct of business, which we presume includes the consideration of all cases of complaint concerning the conduct of members of the Service, and the maintenance of discipline in its ranks.

During the past two years, from evidence placed before us by many aggrieved members, we have regretfully come to the conclusion that somewhat high-handed methods of treatment of individual nurses prevail in the Nursing Department at the War Office. But when a valued member of a Society of which we are Hon. Superintendent, who has six years' military nursing service to her credit, in the South African and present wars, was ordered on foreign service one day, and a few days later curtly told by the Matron-in-Chief, "we do not propose to employ you further," we considered it high time that this autocratic treatment of one servant of the State by another, should be enquired into. Curt, and in our opinion, impertinent letters were the only result to our enquiries, and an appeal to the Army Council simply resulted in an *ex parte* statement, offering neither explanations nor redress.

The injured Sister has given six years' devoted active service to our sick and wounded, holds irreproachable references as a member of her

Society for twenty years, and has devotedly nursed a member of our own family. We decline as the Hon. Superintendent of the Society to which she belongs to permit her to be ejected with ignominy, from the Reserve, without one word of explanation, either to herself or her Committee, and a grave reflection thus cast upon her character, which she has no means of disproving, without a protest, which we have made. This may be the method employed by a bureaucracy in the War Office, but no woman under our protection shall be treated in this manner.

Our advice to our correspondent as a member of the Nursing Board, is to help to institute a method of control, which will prevent such arbitrary treatment in the future.

It would be interesting in this connection to know why all the Canadian Nursing Sisters were withdrawn in 1915 from our Imperial Military Hospitals.—ED.]

A PENNY IN THE POUND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think your idea of paying a penny in the £1 a very good one—towards registration. My fees last year amounted to £72 1s. 10d., so I enclose 72 pennies. I hope this year it will be 100d.

As far as possible, I always deal with the firms who advertise in the JOURNAL. The hot-water bottles sold by the Hospital and Contracts, Ltd., are very good.

It seems possible that some women will get the vote soon. Then we shall get registration.

Hendham Road, Yours truly,
Wandsworth Common, S.W. M. H.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 24th.—Describe how to give a nasal douche, the articles used, and danger to avoid.

March 3rd.—What is an intussusception? How would you prepare the patient for operation, and what instruments and dressings would be necessary?

March 10th.—Describe the causes, symptoms and terminations of inflammations?

March 17th.—What precautions would you take in saving for microscopic examination a specimen of urine, a specimen of sputum, a specimen of faeces?

March 24th.—Describe how you would care for and feed a premature infant.

March 31st.—What is a civic nurse? Give an idea of her true relationship to her municipality and public health service.

NOTICE TO GLASGOW NURSES.

As several complaints have reached us from Glasgow nurses that copies of this JOURNAL are not easily obtainable in that city, we advise them to place their orders for a weekly copy of the JOURNAL with William Love, newsagent, 219 and 221, Argyle Street, Glasgow, price one penny weekly. If ordered from our London Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., annual subscription 6s. 6d. annually or 1s. 9d. a quarter.

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