

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—You have published a good many letters respecting claims made for amateur nurses (not by them). I do not know whether you will care, at this time of day, to print yet another on the old question of the employment in *real nursing* of the half- (or more than half) trained and experienced nurses; but I think the point I wish to make is not often considered. We do not petition for any recognition by College of Nursing or other body, or for any pay or grade, only for the *right to work* in this time of stress, and we would ask, "Why are we not in the same position as the Territorial officer?" Before the war, he was a barrister, a stockbroker, an artist, or merely a landowner! He had done his few weeks' annual drill, &c., in the past four years (some of us have had six times that amount of hospital training, and fifty times that amount of experience in nursing before the war). When the war broke out, he was given his chance at once. Naturally enough, it was at first at home; but before many months were over, he took a draft to the Front, he was perhaps promoted on the field, or in the ordinary course of regimental attrition, and now he may even command his regiment, and no military authority casts it in his teeth that he is an amateur soldier, not a professional, and will very probably return to civil life after the war! His sister or his wife on the other hand (who has no three years' certificate), whose position is really analogous, is not supposed to have learnt *anything* during the war! Wherever she may be working she is still, as at first, kept wasting her energy on probationer duties which could equally well be performed by young girls. Some hospital training and *three years' war experience* count for nothing, and she is rarely, except by extraordinary chance, or *with the Allies*, allowed to be really useful or to fill a real vacancy in a military hospital at home or abroad. It is not the dullness of the work they do of which such women complain—no sensible woman would do that—but the *waste* of woman-power and of past experience, where all is so much needed. Can it be only that women are more jealous than men of their hard-earned privileges? It can scarcely be that military tactics are considered to be more easily learned in the hard school of experience, by the half-trained, than military nursing by those similarly situated! Or is it really easier to command a company or a regiment than to be in charge of a ward?

Yours faithfully,

A THREE YEARS' VOLUNTARY WORKER.

[We regret to hold over several letters on these questions, but now V.A.D.s have been promoted to assistant nurse, no doubt they may aspire to charge of wards if the war continues.—ED.]

LET THEM ALL COME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I send you a cutting from the *Glasgow Herald* headed "Good News for V.A.D.s." As the College of Nursing, Ltd., has taken power

in a new draft of its Bill to compile "Supplementary Registers" of specialists and thus deprive the title "registered nurse" of any practical value whatever to thoroughly trained nurses, why not a register of V.A.D.s? We know that was the intention when the Red Cross authorities first began to interfere with our professional status in 1915.

GOOD NEWS FOR V.A.D.S.

"It is good news to hear that a movement is afoot to get some sort of recognition for the hard-working V.A.D.s. No, not R.R.C.s or trinkets of that kind, simply some arrangements to secure that real hard work in the wards in war time shall be reckoned as "training" in the case of those who intend to enter the nursing profession after peace comes.

"As things stand, any experience gained 'in the wards' goes for nothing when the V.A.D. offers herself as a probationer, though some of the work that falls to her is far in advance of anything with which a beginner would, in ordinary circumstances, be entrusted."

Comment is superfluous!

Sincerely yours,

A GLASGOW NURSE.

PLAIN DIRECTIONS REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Could one of your readers kindly oblige by giving me plain directions for making a practical humanized milk for a delicate baby of four months—one they have found suitable, having tried it personally. My method of making it is as follows:—Take a pint of milk and put on one side a quarter of it. Bring the milk to the boil and pour into a bowl; then put into pan the quarter pint; break with very small quantity of rennet, to which is added a little sugar; sieve and return whey to the pan and bring to the boil. On removing from pan add lime-water until it has no action on blue litmus paper—(I generally find 1 tablespoonful lime-water enough to pint of milk)—then add milk and prepared whey together and sweeten the whole sufficiently to taste.

If there is any error in the foregoing I shall be most grateful to have any other reader's way of doing same. Mine has not appeared a success.

Yours very truly,

LENA B.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

June 1st.—How can nurses assist in the development of "a health conscience" in the general public? On what special points may emphasis be laid?

June 8th.—What are the most important things to observe (a) in bringing up a child from birth till it is a year old, (b) from a year to five years old?

June 15th.—What steps would you take if you came in contact with a case of infectious disease as a district nurse—(1) for the welfare of the patient, (2) to prevent the spread of infection?

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