

I hope will receive it. Is it too much to hope that a categorical answer will be given at the Annual Meeting of members of the College of Nursing, Ltd.?

Yours faithfully,  
AN ENGLISH NURSE.

#### THE NIGHTINGALE BADGE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been recently drawn to this particular "Badge" worn by a midwife with three months' training, qualified, C.M.B., and has been in practice here about two years. Immediately upon obtaining the certificate she procured from enclosed address "Badge" as illustration.

Is such a proceeding legal? All trained nurses around this district will welcome your reply to this enquiry. Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,  
A REGISTRATIONIST, R.B.N.A.

[The badge referred to is, in our opinion, open to grave objection. It appears to be merely a trade venture, purchasable for 3s. 6d., with an additional charge for engraving on the back; we fear anyone may register a badge for trade purposes. The fact that it is called the "Nightingale Badge," and bears an effigy of the Lady of the Lamp certainly supports the supposition that those who wear it are certificated by the Nightingale Training School, and by the uninitiated it will probably be so understood. We think the attention of the authorities at St. Thomas' Hospital should be drawn to the badge.—ED.]

#### "VIVA L'ITALIA."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I understand that you are always glad to receive short communications from any of your readers who are doing nursing work in unusual or interesting circumstances, and the pleasantness surrounding my present sphere moves me, in pure gratitude, to tell others about it. We are all unfortunately familiar with the truly British attitude immortalised in *Punch*—"Who's 'e? Oh, a stranger! 'Eave 'arf a brick at 'im"—which, though discreetly veiled, still prevails in so many hospitals. The newcomer is tacitly made to feel that whatever she does will probably be wrong; if at all unusual *certainly* so—and the only way in which she gradually acquires a knowledge of the traditional standard of "what is done" in that hospital is by a process of elimination of those acts which attracted adverse comment!

Among the Allies, on the other hand, it is no use denying it, manners are better, and people are kinder to strangers. It has been my happy fate to work for and with three of the Allied nations, all so friendly; but for genuine, spontaneous welcome commend me to my present employers—the Italians. (All the Croce Rossa nurses are voluntary, so one has not to work under the usual stigma, also so British, that one can't really be

much good, or someone would be willing to *pay* for one's work!)

If plunging into a new hospital resembles, as it does, going to a new boarding school, then this is a school in which all the teachers and all the girls are friendly.

From the very first, those in authority, as well as one's fellow workers, explain to one all the workings of the hospital, show one where to find everything, describe their own systems, but always with the courteous proviso that if one has been accustomed to something quite different, it is doubtless quite as good, and possibly better.

All one's efforts are appreciated, all one's energies utilised, and one lives in an atmosphere of mutual goodwill and happiness very good for the work and, incidentally, for the "moral" of the patients.

Perhaps one of the benefits which female humanity will derive from this war will be the extinction of the idea that women of any sort, and especially unfortunate probationers, work best when bullied.

In one hospital for wounded Allies in which I worked, where the Staff was partially British, the patients, officers and men, used to confide to one another (in their own tongue, which only some of us understood) what terrible manners the British nurses had, not only to the wounded, but also to each other.

If "hard words break no bones," still courteous ones do help to make life beautiful. We have much to learn from our Allies. "Viva l'Italia."

"INFERMIERA VOLUNTARIA DELLA CROCE  
Florence. ROSSA."

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"An Old Registrationist" writes: "Will you please send me the address of the National Party? I like the sound of its policy—Britain for the British will be something quite new. The only way one can influence the Hun is through his pocket—and the sooner we realize this the better. None of the old Gangs for me. Working and paying for Nursing Reform has, I find, cost me £10 in the past fifteen years; only, as you say, to be treated by successive Governments with contempt. They won't get my vote."

[The address is 22, King Street, St. James', London, S.W. Patriotism is the keynote of the National Party policy, and that appeals to women.—ED.]

We regret to be compelled to hold over several letters which arrived too late for insertion this week.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

##### QUESTIONS.

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?

June 22nd.—Describe the terms Concussion, Cerebral Compression, Cerebral Irritation. Describe the treatment of such cases.

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