

It is a foregone conclusion, and considering the present chaotic condition of our "phone" service, the sooner the better.

This reminds us that, at the request of a subscriber intensely interested in psychology, we have entered the following question in our Prize Competition, "Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, give your experience accurately, or repeat the experience of others on whose accuracy you can rely."

We wonder how many nurses who visited the Home of Rest at Brighton in times past, actually saw the lady who used to tip-tap down the uncarpeted back stairs—evidently wearing high-heeled shoes—in a swishing silk dress, who used to pause outside bedroom doors, whilst hearts thumped within. It was an unwritten law that this phenomenon should never be mentioned, but so many nurses questioned the Matron on the matter "in confidence," that it was a very extraordinary coincidence if not true. The matter was most seriously discussed and investigated, but no solution to the mystery was ever found.

In reference to the burning question of Supplementary Registers, a nurse recently remarked to us that she objected to a Mental Nurses' Register.

We questioned, "What do you know of psychology?"

What is psychology? she asked.

Well, what is it? Truly a science which few doctors, and still fewer nurses, have studied with exact advantage to humanity. The science of the Soul—mental science! Indeed, how few human beings are themselves qualified or worthy to touch psychosis.

Once we heard a literal alienist say: "Brain disease is just the same as heart disease, or the degeneration of any other organ—it must be diagnosed and treated rationally."

Anyway, when we have flights of fancy, save us from a rationalist: we do not feel somehow that he would dispel our illusions. But if some terrestrial soul would come into touch with the spiritual (even if irrational) forces of our mind we might regain equipoise. What is known as mental nursing is the very highest form of soul to soul influence, which one human being is permitted to expend for another. Very few of us have the quality sufficiently developed to be of much use, therefore we revert to rational treatment, and merely help to keep the mentally unbalanced in good physical condition. But much, much more is yet required before we can claim that even the elements of psychological nursing have been defined or approved.

And to apply it! How few have the insight and the will power! Handling souls is a precious privilege.

We have been reading of the quite invaluable work of Queen's Nurses at Bradford, Sheffield, and other centres, as reported at annual meetings of the district nursing associations. We know they have "carried on" in the most self-denying spirit, and we wonder if these wonderful women are to have any special recognition for their noble work. We do hope so. The type of woman who excels as a district nurse is too fine to seek honours, but that is all the more reason she should enjoy them.

Our private duty nurses have also done excellently, quite out of the limelight. They also are worthy of encouragement. Here we may quote a few words from grateful people:—

"Sister saved mother's life." "Father has been spared to us—the result of wonderful nursing." "We might have lost our little darling but for nurse's real devotion." "My dear wife is very unwilling to part with Sister. She has been a treasure in the house," and so on. Why not a "Decoration for Duty on Home Service"?

Mr. James M'Farlane, chairman of the managers of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, announced at the annual meeting of the Court of Governors, that they had been able to provide accommodation, which would permit them, to increase their staff of nurses to such an extent, as would materially shorten their hours and improve their working conditions. The number of nurses returning from war service who were offering their services was quite gratifying.

The four trustees given power to invest the £10,000 collected as a Tribute to certificated Irish Nurses are, we hear, Sir John Arnott, and Mr. Jonathan Hogg, of Dublin, Sir Bertrand Windle, Cork, and Lord Killanin for the North of Ireland. A Committee is being formed to help in the administration of the Fund, and all the principal Nursing Bodies have been invited to nominate representatives. Miss Alice Reeves represents the Irish Matrons' Association, Miss A. Carson Rae the Irish Nurses' Association, Miss Kearns the Irish Nurses' Insurance Society. Miss Huxley is already a member of the Committee, and no doubt the Irish Nursing Board and the College of Nursing Irish Board will also have a say—so that Irish Nurses will feel they are not being run as a charity, and that privacy and dignity will be maintained.

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