

## NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In a letter to the Journal of October 18th. *re* "Trained Nurses in Public Health," "Onward" says that "it is only wasting time to protest against the fundamental regulations that have already been approved," but I would like to ask how she would propose to bring about any reform or improvement if not by protesting?

I feel sure that many will agree with me that the regulations are most inadequate, and the sooner and louder we protest, the sooner we are likely to have more efficient health legislation for our nation.

One has only to read Sir Robert Morant's pamphlet (price 1d.) on "The Training of Health Visitors," to realise how wide a sphere Health visiting embraces. To propose that a woman, at the age of twenty, should be able to take a *final examination*, and be qualified for a *salaried post*, of even limited responsibility, with only two years' study, is merely offering the people a shadow for a substance, opening up another channel for cheap labour, and widening the gulf already existing in the nursing profession.

Public Health Visiting is Health Nursing, or should be if it is to be of more than surface value to the people, and only those who have had a thorough grounding in the fundamental principles should be allowed to specialise in any of its branches.

"Onward" refers to the medical profession and others, but I would like to ask her if there is any other profession that sanctions specialising before a certificate of general efficiency is secured?

If only workers would look to the fundamental principles and not merely parchment certificates, we would be less likely to fall into traps.

We have just escaped one horrid wolf in the shape of The College of Nursing, Ltd., but take care we do not meet him again dressed in a lamb-skin coat!—Yours faithfully,

C. H. MCARA.

Hillview, Balmore.

[This correspondence must now cease.—ED.]

## THE NURSE'S CURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As an English nurse I want to express my appreciation of Mrs. Rogers' remarks about the British nurses at the meeting on Saturday. We were glad indeed that both an Australian and an American nurse supported us.

I thought her remarks splendid. And if the nurses had her courage, they would not be in the plight they find themselves to-day. I agree the first boycott should be the Lay Nursing Press; it is and has been the nurse's curse.

Yours truly,

A. GIFFEN.

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## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

*Home Service*: "I do think it most unfair that nurses on Home Service who were mentioned in Despatches, are not to receive the Certificate of the King's appreciation. I longed to serve overseas, but places had to be found for so many V.A.D.s that I was kept at home all the time."

*Public Health Nurse*: "I attended the Conference on Tuberculosis last week, yet one more branch of our work to be taken from us! V.A.D.s are evidently not satisfied with the monopoly of Army Nursing and Health Visiting, but are to have the Tuberculosis Nursing as well. Sir Arthur Stanley and Lady Aberdeen evidently look forward to the millennium when the 'hired nurse' is a thing of the past, as she must be if much more of her work goes into the smelting pot."

*Thoroughly Trained*: "I note an appeal for £1,000,000 is being advertised for the Children's Hospital City to endow for ever 500 beds in a perfectly equipped Cottage City near London, in connection with the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and a fine programme is put out with which I should be in complete sympathy if it was not for one item. Amongst the inducements to subscribe is included 'Private Nursing Staff.' Why should young women be side-tracked as specialists to make money for the charity? If the public give a million pounds, surely they will wish the exploitation of the nurses to cease."

*A Past Number*: "I have attended many Nurses' Meetings in my time, but never one where the working nurses showed so much spirit as at that held on Saturday last to form a Nurses' Trade Union. Very few 'modest violets' appeared to be present, though the College representatives seated near me were very irate that their colleagues objected to be guided into their 'compound.'"

*Fully-qualified Public Health Nurse*: "I learn that a Welfare Centre has been started at St. Bart's Hospital. So far so good, *but*—it is a big *but*—the Sister who lectures to the mothers has not her C.M.B. certificate, nor has she studied pediatrics as I understand it. I wonder if the Sister and those responsible for the appointment realise the great moral wrong they are doing to mothers who go there for advice? A little learning is a dangerous thing, but there is hope for the individual who realises her ignorance and refuses to impart it. And how about undercutting those already trained in this special branch?"

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

## QUESTIONS.

*November 1st.*—To what uses can a nurse put hot-water bottles for the care and comfort of patients? What are the special points to be observed in their application?

*November 8th.*—What are the physical defects for which a nurse or midwife should look in washing a newly-born infant? From what do they arise, and what is her duty in regard to each?

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