

future are not going to submit to having anything but fully-trained nurses, and I believe that the only way to organise rural areas will be by the establishment of centres—totally independent of the present hampering parochial system—probably grouped round maternity hospitals or cottage hospital. Such a centre should be in charge of a highly trained and experienced woman, who should have under her a staff of (a) fully-trained nurses, (b) midwives, (c) household helps, whom she could send to the areas where they are required.

By the present system a nurse may be comparatively idle in one small parish, whilst her sister is overworked in the next one, and there is no nurse in the third.

With regard to the salary mentioned, no nurse, whether she is fully trained or not, can work as a nurse should work and live as a nurse should live and put by for the years when she can no longer work (which come sooner for nurses than for many workers) on the sum of £70 a year, even though, as is the extenuating fact, the Association employing her has expended money on her training.

The remuneration of fully-trained nurses is also quite inadequate. Valuable statistics on the subject have been published by the National Union of Trained Nurses and widely circulated. Unless institutions and associations wake up to the fact stated in this pamphlet and provide salaries that make life worth living, the present shortage of the right type of probationer will increase until the profession entirely ceases to attract intelligent and well-educated girls.

If individuals cannot provide the necessary funds, the State must. The plan which has been promulgated of forming a State Service of Midwives is wasteful for sparsely-inhabited areas, where there is not enough work to occupy a woman who is only a midwife. The solution may be a State Service of Nurses, Midwives, and Helpers indicated above.

I am, yours faithfully,
E. L. C. EDEN.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

Member of League: "Our League is no use whatever, excepting for social purposes. Matron disapproved of us affiliating with the National Council of Trained Nurses, and we have never mentioned registration officially during the whole time the Bills, touching our future interests at every point, have been before Parliament. I call us a League of idiots!"—[You must be.—Ed.]

Out of Work Private Nurse: "The College Chairman, in a letter to members, states 'it is essential that the economic conditions of the members should be carefully safeguarded.' It would be interesting to know what the College Council has done to put down private nursing exploitation by hospital committees. I note that private nursing institutions are run by the following hospitals, the matrons of which have seats on the Council: Barts, Guys, St. Thomas (Johns House), and Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

This abuse does not pertain in Scotland, and it is high time it was discontinued in England and Ireland.

A Canadian Nurse: "I find that a goodly number of English nurses are coming to Canada and taking up the work of the Victorian Order, as they claim the V.A.D., of whom there were such large numbers in the British—or rather English—hospitals, are already encroaching upon the work hitherto done by graduate nurses. The English women one and all have certainly worked most faithfully and untiringly through the entire war, how they will now be content to go back to the quiet conventional life I can't see. . . . I was recommended the "N.M." by an Army Nurse at the Canadian Red Cross Club in Montreal. I am indeed surprised that she should not have appreciated the difference between it and the B.J.N. and the principles for which they stood. I enclose my subscription."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 27th.—Describe the appearance of the skin in (a) eczema, (b) psoriasis, (c) ringworm, (d), lupus. How are these diseases treated?

January 3rd.—What measures would you adopt to check hæmorrhage from (a) The lungs (hæmoptysis), (b) a deep cut in the forearm, (c) a ruptured varicose vein?

January 10th.—What nursing treatment and management are required for a case of infantile wasting?

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Do not omit to buy, as far as possible, everything you need from "Our Advertisers," and to recommend them to your friends. They are all first-class firms.

HOW TO HELP THE B. J. N.

1. Subscribe for it.
2. Send news to it.
3. Patronise our advertisers.

LAST WORD FOR 1919.

"Where the mind is without fear, and the head is held high,
Where knowledge is free,
Where words come out from the depths of truth,
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection,
Where the clear stream of reason
Has not lost its way in the drear desert of dead habit,
Where the mind is led forward by God into ever widening thought and action,
Into that heaven of freedom
My father, let my country awaken."

RABINDRANATH TAGORE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)