

East Brighton Creche to carry out additions and to engage a fully trained nurse. The Committee appear somewhat aggrieved at what it terms this "fiat of the Ministry." It is high time the best-intentioned philanthropists realised that they have no right to assume responsibility for the health of babies and children without knowledge of hygiene, sanitation and scientific nursing. Goodwill is not enough where the children of others are concerned.

We note an official of a County Nursing Association congratulating the poor in a rural district that by co-operation they can enjoy the ministrations of a trained nurse when ill by subscribing a penny a week. This sounds fine for the patients. We wonder what the training consists of, and what the penny a week nurse gets by way of salary and emoluments.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

We hope every trained nurse is getting ready to apply for her Application Form for State Registration. This Form will need to be very carefully filled in in the clearest handwriting possible, the consent of referees obtained, and the guinea fee forthcoming. It is probable that the Rules will be signed at an early date, and it is to be hoped that after all the careful consideration given to them by the Registration Committee and the General Nursing Council, they will be considered as just as possible according to the Act. The Registrationists, of course, much preferred the well considered provisions of the Central Committee's Bill, but we believe the best has been made of the present Act, and if the Rules are not as perfect as they might have been under the original Bill, every care has been taken in drafting them that the rights and privileges of the nurses are protected by every means in the Council's power.

The General Nursing Council's House at 12, York Place is still in the hands of the decorators, but will soon be ready for occupation. The official opening will be quite an event, and is to take place, it is hoped, at a very early date. The Council's House must be a live centre for all which concerns the educational future of the Nursing Profession, and this has been kept in mind by the Finance Committee in furnishing the establishment.

LETTERS TO A NURSE.

The "Letters to a Nurse," by A Midland Doctor, published by John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 83-91, Great Titchfield Street, London, W.1., price 5s., will no doubt meet with a mixed reception for, as M. Frank G. Layton, M.R.C.S., says in an introductory paragraph, "Old Luke" is "a critic of Things As They Are. He will irritate certain Authorities, but *that* won't matter." Nurse Barbara, in a similar paragraph, writes: "I venture to think that these letters, written to me from time to time by my Uncle, may be of interest and some assistance to other girls setting out on their adventures in the great Profession of Nursing . . . I don't know what other junior nurses will say about his criticism of the Hospital System; but I am pretty sure some of the Matrons and Sisters will be cross. I mean those who find that my Uncle's cap is a good fit. I wonder how many there will be."

Here is a quotation from Uncle Luke's first letter:—"You say you are finding the path of the new probationer in a hospital to be overplentifully beset with snares and pitfalls and nasty things in general. At least, I gather that is what you mean. Your four pages of letter are—shall we say, emotional? Also a little difficult to read. You should acquire (either by purchase, theft, or a direct appeal to me) a fountain pen with a decent gold nib, such as—but the traditions of my Profession forbid me to advertise any particular brand of pen, or, indeed, anything else—myself included.

"You tell me the Sister of your Ward is a cantankerous devil who looks for trouble where there isn't any. Your language is unbecoming. You have had the training of a lady (or at any rate, you should have had it, for I paid the bills for that sort of article), and ladies *never* describe their superiors as cantankerous devils. It isn't *done*, my dear. No doubt the Sister of your Ward is trying, but so, perhaps, are you. It is more easy to say this in a letter than across the hearthrug. If I were to tell you face to face that you are trying, I can imagine the sort of horrible time I should have. But now you wear a uniform—I suppose a thing of stripes, with an apron in front, and most of the buttons missing behind the apron—and you have got to live up to it.

"The Sister is your Commanding Officer, and it is up to you to get on with her. It is just conceivable that she is right when she finds fault, and that you, my dear, are wrong. She has had some years of painful experience, which include the years when she was a junior probationer, and you have not."

Incidentally, Uncle Luke gives Barbara a great deal of very lucid and valuable information on such subjects as germs, the pulse, the importance of accurate observation, the working of the body in health, the anatomy of the lungs and kidneys and heart, and the effect of disease on

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