

gives local work for local ladies, and the nurse employed has far from an easy time doing other people's charity.

Lastly, the private practice, whether that of running a nursing home, private nursing, midwifery, massage, daily visiting nursing is by far the best and most courageous. Let a nurse buy her own equipment, work up a practice like a general practitioner, and she should, with her own knowledge and personality have a practice worth something, moreover the satisfaction of doing her own charity.

Before I close my letter may I ask where women like Miss Rosalind Paget, Miss Fynes Clinton, Miss Lucy Robinson sprang from? Women bringing with them organizing powers to start fresh professions and see them glow into successes. How I envy them their powers and their strength; and tell me what hospital to-day is bringing forward women like them?

Yours faithfully,

GERTRUDE M. HOVENDEN.

Findon, Sussex.

[We know a very limited number of nurses who have been able to work up an individual private practice. Those few have done well. The chief difficulty is that nursing is not an independent profession, but is largely dependent upon the support of the medical profession, and a nurse cannot always respond to a call when on her own. Thus in our opinion *co-operation* amongst private nurses is almost imperative, so that if one nurse is engaged another can take her place. Individual practices in midwifery and massage are more easily maintained. The pioneer work of founding the professions of nursing, midwifery and massage has been accomplished by a generation of women who realised the work needed doing, and did it. It is the duty of the present generation to organize these professions on continuously progressive methods—we are only at the beginning of things even now—and we can but hope that the clear sight, capacity and self-sacrifice of the founders may inspire the present and future generations of women to do their part fearlessly and without hope of reward.—ED.]

#### RECOGNITION FOR NURSES ON HOME SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with interest, in the B.N.J., a remark by Mr. Paterson that some recognition should be given to Nurses who did their bit at the Military Hospitals at home.

Many Nurses were not fit enough to go abroad—I am speaking personally. I had to remain in London, and eventually I was invalided out of the service. I received compensation and the Soldiers' Silver Medal. I think a general recognition in some form or other would be most valued. A medal seems the most suitable.—I remain, yours truly,

M. E. SHANK.

Bickenhall Mansions, W.

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

KIDNAP SIR ALFRED MOND.

*Another Ardent Registrationist.*—"May I support the suggestion made under this heading last week? We might invite Sir Alfred to a picnic in that lovely meadow near Windsor and claim our rights from him—but not at the point of the sword."

*Member Bart.'s League.*—"I had hoped we should have heard something of the progress of State Registration at our meeting on Saturday—but not a word. I am ready to give a hand with the Runnymede adventure, which I consider a very sporting proposition."

THE RAVAGES OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

*A Lock Hospital Worker.*—"Cannot we nurses rouse ourselves on the venereal question and do more to stay its horrible ravages? I have been working in a centre recently and cannot sleep at nights for thinking of the *cruelty* to children which this disease evokes. Now that the Ministry of Health has gone so far as to permit chemists to sell prophylactic remedies—just so long as they do not take the precaution of explaining in writing their use—and I presume their danger—it occurs to me nurses might verbally explain their uses—or would that be considered horribly immoral and shameless?"

REAPING WHERE THEY HAVE NOT SOWN.

*An East Anglian Nurse.*—"When founding local centres of the College of Nursing, Ltd., why do the officials make claims to which they have not the slightest right? Recently, at Ipswich, Miss Sherriff MacGregor spoke as if there was no organization of nurses before the College started, and, moreover, as if nothing had been accomplished by our pioneer Associations, like the R.B.N.A., the Society for State Registration of Nurses, and the well-known Irish and Scottish Nurses' Associations. This is a very mean and indefensible policy—and I was glad to see it disproved in the press by the officers of the R.B.N.A. and others. The fact is, the College was started twenty years after the fact, and after we had won legal status and *paid for it.*"

#### NOTICE.

Correspondents have in several instances very kindly sent us items of information, but when they come a fortnight late such information cannot be classed as *news*, and gets crowded out with reports of more recent events. We are most grateful for communications of general interest, and would beg that such be sent by the very earliest post possible, when we shall have pleasure in inserting them in our next issue.

#### PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

*June 18th.*—Give twelve rules, with reasons, for securing health.

*June 25th.*—What are the principal diseases of the nervous system and the nursing points to be observed in caring for them?

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