

union is beneath the dignity of the nursing profession and likely to degrade and lower its high ideals.

MAUDE MACCALLUM, *Hon. Sec.*

The Professional Union of Trained Nurses,
17, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford St., W.1.

AN INEXCUSABLE INSULT TO MEMBERS OF A STATE RECOGNISED PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am enclosing a slip, taken from the *Globe*, the leading Toronto daily paper, which is a slight summary of a talk given by Lady Martin Harvey, January 18th, before the Canadian Club. Lady Harvey is pleading for the broken-down war nurses of England during her professional tour of the Dominion. I cannot help thinking it a great shame that this matter should be exploited the world over, and nurses made the objects of charity as they are. It was bad enough to bear when it was done in the streets of London, and through prominent English papers, and I think Lady Harvey would do a much greater work if she brought this matter to the attention of the Pensions Commissioners, instead of begging in this public manner, which is not only lowering the standard of the nursing profession, but is degrading England in the eyes of her Dominions.

I have the honour to be, Madam,
Yours faithfully,

ALICE TORR, R.N.

Brant Hospital,
Burlington, Ontario,
Canada.

[We hope our Canadian colleagues will make public in the Canadian press how deeply incensed English nurses are that this actress should dare to carry her self-advertising begging campaign upon their behalf beyond Seas. Lady Martin Harvey knows full well how bitterly we resent her attitude towards our profession at home, and she has, therefore, no excuse for holding up our honourable State-recognised profession in *forma pauperis* in the Dominions. We agree with our correspondent that it is degrading to the Mother Country. Moreover, under what authority is Lady Harvey taking money from the public in Canada? Who is the Treasurer of the appeal, and who is responsible for the auditing of the accounts? So far the balance-sheet and audited accounts of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, supported in the press by Lady Harvey in England, have never been issued since it began its inglorious appeal upwards of three years ago.—ED.]

CATHETERISATION BEFORE BLADDER OPERATIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was greatly surprised by the letter from a correspondent in your last issue, who described as "excruciating" the pain experienced by patients, previously comfortable, when

catheterised before a bladder operation. Surely there must be something wrong with the method employed when this is the case. If force is not used—and it never should be—what is there to cause pain in the passing of a catheter of suitable size through the urethra into the bladder? Unskilfully used, of course, great pain and injury may be caused but I think most nurses will bear me out in saying that this procedure is quite simple and practically painless. In cases of any abnormality, or stricture, it should be performed by the surgeon, unless explicit directions are given to a nurse to undertake it.

A point which must always be borne in mind is that when the operation of lithotrity (or crushing a stone in the bladder) is to be performed, the bladder must never be emptied, as if so more fluid will have to be injected before the operation can be proceeded with, otherwise the stone will not float in the bladder and cannot readily be seized by the instrument employed to crush it. Again, in a case of suspected fracture of the pelvis, if directions are given to prepare a patient for operation, the bladder should not be emptied until the surgeon has seen the case.

These are the two principal instances in which the bladder should not be emptied before operation.

Yours faithfully,

A FORMER LONDON HOSPITAL MATRON.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Matron, Poor-Law Infirmary.—"The Salford Board of Guardians will find they will have to shut up their Infirmary if they pay nurses—like scrubbers—by the hour. Mrs. Hampson's objection to housing and feeding nurses for 24 hours if they only work for eight may sound all right to rate-payers, but how does it work out? Scavengers in this district have an eight hours' day and receive £4 a week. Many nurses would be quite pleased to live out on the same terms. The nurses at Salford Infirmary do not cost the ratepayers anything like this sum per head. Moreover, it may have improved lately; but it used to be very understaffed, about 75 nurses and attendants to 900 beds."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

February 19th.—What do you know of sleeping sickness, its treatment and nursing care?

February 26th.—Mention diseases which are frequently conveyed by (a) milk; (b) water. Suggest any precautions which can be taken to prevent such infection.

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