

THE DUTY OF NURSES AS TAXPAYERS.

To the Editor, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am an old reader of your paper, having read the *Nursing Record* since my probationer days in the 'eighties. I should like to tell you that I have always been interested in the column you devote to National affairs "Outside the Gates."

You often give much information in concise form, and one can easily see the point. In the April issue is a paragraph, "The Duty of Nurses as Taxpayers," in which you draw attention to the enormous expenditure of the Government, and also the big increases proposed in the salaries of the Cabinet Ministers. Surely this lavish expenditure is an injustice to the nation, creating luxury at one end of the social scale and poverty at the other. When man has learnt justice and is willing to practise it, all the social problems that exist will be solved. Oh! for some power which would bring about a Social System of Right. I have worked over twenty years in a poor parish as Nurse. You will understand why I have written you this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Slater's Farm,
Longridge.

A. RAILTON.

UNKNOWN WARRIORS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad that a member of our profession should have contributed to the War books one which on the authority of Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby is unsurpassed in interest by any War novel yet written. I have read it with the very greatest pleasure, and hope that it will be circulated far and wide, for the picture which it gives of the heroism of our brave soldiers is, as everyone who had the privilege of nursing them knows, true to life. The patience, unselfishness, and even gaiety with which they endured hardship and suffering are things to be remembered. "Their glory shall not be blotted out," and those who knew them find the world a better place that they dwelt in it for a while.

Is it credible that men who so comported themselves in hospital should throw off all restraints when in the trenches? That the conditions were horrible we know, but nevertheless human nature is such that it rises superior to its surroundings.

We have it on the testimony of the late Lord Roberts in the Boer War that the men behaved like gentlemen on every occasion.

Nurses can give the same testimony.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
T.A.N.S.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss Lucy C. Cooper, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., sends us a very encouraging letter, very cheering for the editorial staff. She writes in part: "I feel I must just write a letter to you to feel in touch as it were with all the wonderful happenings in our beloved profession."

"I always welcome the journal so eagerly, and the first thing I look for is the B.C.N. news, and then all seems well with the world."

"What a lot of interesting events are taking place in the hospital and nursing world, being so out of touch with things make them more wonderful still. I wish you all a happy Annual Dinner and regret I shall not be there. . . . Congratulations on so many and varied achievements, and may you be long granted health to carry on the good work, which has been the means of lifting the Banner of Nursing so high."

A Member of the College of Nursing writes: "Why when Her Majesty the Queen visited the College of Nursing last month to receive purses, mostly filled by nurses, was not the honour of presenting the bouquet to the Queen allotted to a nurse instead of to a relative of Lady Cowdray? The nurses should not be ignored, as they so often are, when it is their profession which brings people into association with Royalty. This is no new thing, as I remember hearing a story, quite true, of a surgeon who was an hon. officer in the R.B.N.A., holding a meeting in his own house, which the Royal President attended, and where the nurse members were given tea downstairs, and the patients of the surgeon took tea with H.R.H. in the drawing-room!"

State Registered Nurse writes: "We have to thank the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for pointing out that the poor woman who was charged with the attempted murder of the proprietress of a Nurses' Co-operation in the West End was not a trained nurse at all, and was suffering from delusional insanity. I have seen no correction of this statement in any other paper, although startling headlines appeared in many papers and on posters, stating that she was a nurse. I think it is most unfair to circulate such a mistake for the sake of an effective headline."

Mental Nurse writes: "I am very glad indeed to know that the Mental Treatment Bill is passed, and that there is a prospect of early hospital treatment for mental cases when they are still in the hopeful stage, instead of treatment in most cases being begun only when they are certifiable, an extreme measure naturally put off by relatives as long as possible. It has been really heart-breaking to know how much more could have been done for our patients and how much better chance they would have had of recovering completely eventually if only they had come under expert care sooner."

C. F. T. writes: "How the habit of Rambling grows upon one. It is certainly the greatest treat a nurse can enjoy. Now I know what to do with my whole days off. Country bred days in town got on my nerves—as I hate drapers' shop windows—and was too tired to go round historic buildings for ever. Now I have seen the Spring in all its freshness, and am enjoying summer in all its bloom."

Private Nurse writes:—"Private Nursing is not what it used to be, owing to lack of service and accommodation; but I find patients very grateful if you really are sympathetic and unselfish, and quite unexpectedly I have been left a nice little legacy, as my dear old patient said, 'Just, to see a bit of the world.' So that is how I am going to spend it, as all the wonderful things I hope to see will be retained in memory to brighten my old age. I am going to travel over Scandinavia, and come home through Holland and Belgium."

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PRIZE COMPETITION FOR AUGUST.

Describe the symptoms of exophthalmic goitre. Mention the special points to be observed in nursing this condition.

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