

Replies to Correspondents.

Mrs. Gascoine (Sheffield).—Order *The Nursing Directory*: it will give in detail the regulations of the most important Nursing Schools. Do not enter any school where you are liable, for the sake of pecuniary gain to the Institution, to be sent out to nurse private cases before your training is complete, as this system is most unjust, both to the Nurse and patient—to the Nurse, because the Nursing Schools are well aware that the Registration Board is most particular, and will only register the name of a Nurse as *trained* who has worked in Hospitals, under skilled supervision, for *three complete years*. Private Nursing is not recognised as *training*, to save the sick in private houses, who pay highly for nursing, and to whom it is most unfair to send inexperienced, and therefore ignorant, attendants. Bartholomew's, Guy's, Middlesex, University College, and Metropolitan Free, all place the high standard of three years' training before their Probationers.

Miss Alexander.—We should advise you to wait until some details of the work are made public. At present the Sub-Committees are not completely organised. Any appliance you may have perfected for the comfort of the sick would doubtless receive consideration at the hands of the Nursing Committee. We hope that many Nurses will follow your example, and be inspired to improve on our nursing appliances, which are now far from perfect. There is nothing so healthy as competition.

Miss Annie Cirmichael.—You cannot study massage and electricity *thoroughly* unless you give up at least three months for the special purpose. If you can do this, apply to Fletcher Little, 60, Welbeck Street, or to the Grafton Dr. College, 36, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

Miss Ella Davies.—It is a matter of political economy. There are so many women now obliged to work for a living that their labour is cheap. If one fails, ten more are ready for her post. The last generation of parents are to blame in a great measure for the sad condition of their daughters, as they neither provided them with a means of gaining a livelihood, nor left them money to live upon; hence the mass of incapable women offering their worthless services to the public. Go and learn any work for which you have an inclination *thoroughly*; and do not offer to teach the young until you know your A B C, or nurse the sick with the meagre results of a year's training. The way to succeed in life is to do your *work well*; and this is impossible without *patience, time, and trouble*. Avoid any Hospital with one year's curriculum—it is a sham!

Pension Fund Nurse.—Our figures are absolutely accurate, and we intend, as our bounden duty to Nurses, to compare the figures of the Royal National Pension Fund, week by week, in our advertisement columns, with those of the Prudential Assurance Company, whose terms are so much more liberal to Nurses, and which is not a Charity. We should advise you to write to the Council of your Fund and enclose them the terms of the Prudential Company, and ask them why they induced you to join by stating that the premiums charged are lower than other Assurance Companies, when they are in reality some 20 to 26 per cent. higher.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be strictly adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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