

I think it is cruel to deceive Nurses when their living depends upon it.—Yours respectfully,

CLARA GARMAN.

[We entirely sympathise with our correspondent, and trust that she is still eligible for Registration. Her case is by no means singular. We hear of medical men in several parts of the country who are demanding—in justice to their patients, that only registered Nurses shall be sent to their cases.—ED.]

Replies to Correspondents.

Miss Massingham.—If you wish to make Nursing your means of livelihood, do not be persuaded to do the thing by halves. Long before you are worth a salary as a Private Nurse, Registration will be in force, and you must work up to its standard—it is only fair to Trained Nurses and the public. We should strongly advise you to make a careful selection with regard to the Nursing School you enter for training. Ascertain that a three years' course of experience is demanded from you before you are considered efficient and worthy to be certificated. Ascertain that you will be required to work in the Wards for the three years as Probationer and Staff Nurse; that theoretical lectures are given and examinations held. *Be very careful not* to enter any Hospital which professes to train you in twelve months—you can only gain a smattering of knowledge—and which demands two years' private Nursing on your part—the profits on your worthless labour to be absorbed by the Hospital. You will find that Institutions which practice this *abuse*, do not publish a balance-sheet of your earnings. Make up your mind to be *thoroughly trained*, and then follow the example of the stronger sex, and refuse to be sweated. Read note in "Echoes" this week *re* the Hampstead Home Hospital.

St. Bartholomew's, Middlesex, University College, St. George's, the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, the Infirmary, Leicester, and many other excellent Institutions, work on the three years' system.

Miss Emma McIntyre.—See advertisement *re* Annuity Fund in our last issue. These figures are "very significant." The cost of management of National Pension Fund was last year more than the sum you mention. Of course the premiums must be lowered, or those Hospitals who have affiliated to the Fund, and pay half the premiums, out of money subscribed by the public for the benefit of the sick poor, for those Nurses on their Staff who are persuaded to join, will be called to account by their subscribers for this use of public money. The Charity Press is now pretty wide awake, and has a knack of exposing such little jobs.

Miss Arbuthnot.—We fancy the thing is now a little overdone, as four Homes have shut up within the last three months. Owing to competition, many ladies are unwise enough to admit patients at cost price, or below it, reducing the *Nursing* (the *raison d'être* of a Home Hospital) to a minimum, with the natural result of dissatisfaction on the part of both patient and Doctor. A really good article can always command its price, but the *goodness* of a Home Hospital can only be proved by experience, and this takes time, so that five years' work must be given to make a connection. As the work of superintending such an establishment is very responsible and trying to the health, we should say you ought to make a clear profit of at least a pound a week per bed. Don't buy a failing business; this is a very bad policy. We quite agree with you about "unprofessional houses." It is impossible that they can be conducted upon a satisfactory system, and doubtless in time medical men will only recommend their patients to a Hospital where the Superintendent is a Trained Nurse. Nursing quackery will then only flourish *sub rosa*.

NURSES, STUDENTS, and ALL WHO TAKE NOTES

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The Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope.

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.

Communications from all parts of the country are cordially invited, and liberal arrangements are made for reprints of original articles, and for such illustrations as serve to increase their value of interest. Reports of Nursing Vacancies, Appointments, Meetings of Societies, &c., and Newspapers, &c., containing (marked) accounts of matters of local or personal interest or importance, will be gladly received. Correspondence upon all subjects associated with Nursing specially invited.

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