

unfortunate reputation in this respect—a reputation largely won for us by unqualified nurses, though we registered nurses cannot always be held guiltless. If we are to gain the confidence of the public, who so often find great difficulty in paying our fees, we must prove ourselves a comfort and support, as well as professionally efficient, in the houses which we enter. That, I believe, is why some nurses are always in demand. But the public do not see why they should make sacrifices to pay for what they do not want to have, and therefore dispense with our services at the first opportunity.

These, Madam, are some of the reflections which your editorial have called forth.

Faithfully yours,  
A PUBLIC SERVANT.

#### THE UNCERTAIN LOTTERY OF THE MASS MIND.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad that Miss Emma Horton approved of the suggestion which I made in the January issue that in future elections to the General Nursing Council a sheet should be officially issued with the voting papers, giving the qualifications, and other information concerning the candidates, supplied by themselves. I hope that she and other Registered Nurses who think with her will write to the General Nursing Council, so that the proposal may not be allowed to lapse, and definitely put the proposition before them for consideration.

I am,  
Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE. THE FUNDAMENTAL VIRTUES.

*A Bart's Nurse* writes: "I have been immensely interested in the Prize Essay by Miss Margaret H. Hart, published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I am of course proud that the prestige of my own training school should be maintained, and enhanced, by one of its members gaining a prize open for competition to the nurses of the world. But what interests me particularly is the emphasis laid on the heritage English nurses have received in the example of their devoted predecessors of the Religious Orders. 'Practical efficiency, the cheerful balanced poise, the ability to control the situation, and the entire devotion called to-day keenness in professional work,' all these they had, as well as 'reasoned and intelligent discipline.' Let us see to it that with the more accurate and scientific knowledge, and greater exactness in their application which we now possess, we cherish the fundamental virtues which made the Religious Orders such a power for good in the days before the Dissolution. They established a great tradition the influence of which is still evident in our Nursing Schools."

#### A FINE RESULT TO OUR APPEAL.

*A Member of the National Council of Nurses* writes: "What a fine result of the Appeal for the Florence Nightingale Scholarship Fund is recorded in the March B.J.N. ! It proves that the nurses are alive to their privileges and responsibilities, for it is a privilege to help to commemorate this great woman to whose name the years as they go by seem to add lustre, if that were possible, but at any rate to add to the growing comprehension of her great work as regards nursing education. It proves, too, though action has of necessity been so long delayed, how true was the instinct of yourself and Miss Nutting when you proposed an educational memorial to Miss Nightingale in Cologne in 1912."

#### CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST.

*Miss Edith F. Hawkins* writes from Western Ontario, Canada:—

"We had a very nice Christmas in this hospital in spite of having extra work to do and sometimes feeling very tired.

Christmas Breakfast for the Nursing Staff was a very unique affair. The Something Different.

On the notice board we read that there would be no breakfast served in the Dining Room on Christmas morning but we were all invited to a Winter Picnic in the Music Room at 6.30. That was one time when we were all punctual.

As we entered the room we were greeted by a most cheerful fire burning in the large grate (very English and Homelike). There were two huge Christmas trees surrounded at their bases with a lot of long Christmas Stockings: We were told to each take one and that we should find part of our breakfast in it. So we proceeded to carry out our part of the programme and planted ourselves around the room, some in chairs, more on the floor as close as we could get around the fire. On opening our Stocking the first thing we pulled out was a very pretty china cup and saucer, next an individual packet of cereal, a tiny pot of honey, picnic bowl, plate and spoon. There were other goodies too, which were not for Breakfast.

The maids handed around tea and coffee, sandwiches and rolls. We all enjoyed the Winter Picnic so much that we almost forgot there was such a thing as Duty and Wards, until rather reluctantly, I being President of the Alumnae, and Official Director of Nursing activities, gave the signal to rise. We kept the cup and saucer as our Christmas present from our Lady Superintendent.

For one morning, at least, the Dining Room maids had no washing up to do for us.

I think it was quite a nice idea for Christmas Breakfast do not you?

I look forward to the B.J.N. every month and am especially interested in the Prize Papers, or other Papers that appear on Nursing Procedures. There are points of difference which are very interesting to read about, and which show us that other people are not wrong because they do not do things just in the same way as we do it.

For instance, I have never worn or seen anyone wear white cotton gloves when preparing a patient for operation. Also in this part of the world and in the U.S.A. we carry a Stomach Pump to the patient in a bowl surrounded by cracked ice. I never heard of placing it in warm water before I read the Article on Lavage in our Journal some months ago.

So it is very instructive to read and learn about new or different ways of doing things.

Then the JOURNAL brings us in touch with people all over the world, making us feel like one big family.

I know more about Who's Who in the Nursing World since I have been reading the JOURNAL than I ever knew before, and hope to learn many more useful things from its pages.

Wishing our College every success, and with many thanks to all at home for their kindly thought for the absent one."

#### THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, 1899-1925.

Copies of the History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899-1925 (illustrated), can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Price 5s. post free.

#### PRIZE COMPETITION FOR MAY.

Give simple directions for the care of the Nose, Throat and Ear.

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