

ANOTHER HYBRID.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Another hybrid has appeared upon the nursing horizon. I recently required a housemaid, and had applications from three people, who, to quote from their correspondence, "had experience in the line of housemaid." They had gone to a hospital under the L.C.C., "thinking we were engaged as wardmaids," but "it turned out to be Domestic Assistant, and means to go wherever you are needed," and so they would like to go where they would have a "fixed post." I presume the "Domestic Assistant" is some relation to Dr. Somerville Hastings' Hospital Woman Orderly. The attitude of those whom he proposes shall assist the nurses in the wards is likely to be exemplified strongly in an objection to "going wherever you are needed"; it is one that will react not only upon the sick, but upon the nurses who, actuated by the Spirit of Nursing to go wherever they are needed, will on occasion find themselves with both their own and the Orderly's duties to perform, unless the patient is to suffer, or unless a nice and polite discrimination is to be observed in protecting the hybrid from all really disagreeable duties. In any case, the letter has its humorous side, as indicating the rude awakening of an unwilling pioneer in a new branch of hospital service.

I am, etc.,

REGISTERED NURSE.

AUSTRALIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MANCHESTER UNITY BUILDING, 185, ELIZABETH STREET,
SYDNEY.

DEAR EDITOR,—I desire to inform you that the offices of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (Australasian Nurses' Journal) are now situated at the above address.

Yours faithfully,

E. P. EVANS,

Secretary.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Lovely Lusaka.

Miss E. A. Woolley writes from the European Hospital, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia:—

"I really feel I must write and thank you for helping me to get this post in Africa.

"I am greatly indebted to you and am extremely fortunate in being here.

"This is a lovely, new, modern hospital, only opened six weeks ago, with good experience in all kinds of nursing, especially in midwifery.

"The country around is lovely, and Lusaka itself is quite a busy little town. Once again, thank you very much indeed."

[We always encourage bright young nurses to venture forth, there is room for them still in so many parts of the world painted red.—ED.]

The Question of Bilingualism—A Warning to English Nurses.

A correspondent writes from Cape Town:—"I note your Echo on the disgraceful affair over the Somerset Hospital appointment. I think it is very necessary to warn English nurses who think of coming out here to take posts to know what stumbling-blocks will be put in their way to future advancement. The actual learning of Afrikaans is not difficult, and most people tackle it naturally. I myself have studied it steadily and can read and write it easily and converse quite fairly in it. I am

taking my Taalbond examination at an early date. But this does not help me to get another post because there is a section of the community out here who are determined to fill all higher posts with their own countrymen, which means that Englishmen stand a poor chance of getting posts, no matter what their qualifications. Things would not be so bad if Hospital Boards stood firm instead of pandering to the Administration. This present affair at the Somerset Hospital is a case in point. They have turned down some excellent applicants and are now left without any.

The Trained Nurses' Association has taken steps to ensure that if posts are advertised overseas, that the conditions of bilingualism are fully explained in the advertisement, but, of course, they are not anxious to do this as very few nurses would come.

That is the worst aspect of it, as soon as there is a shortage of nurses, as lately at the Kimberley Hospital, and when they want to fill posts for which S.A. nurses haven't the qualifications, or won't take, they import from England with no question of bilingualism arising. Then later put it in the way of their advancement. I am explaining this matter as fully as possible so that you may know the facts first hand. I have no personal axe to grind."

Slavery is Still Customary in Parts of Abyssinia.

A lover of freedom writes:—"While it is true that domestic slavery is distinct from the cruel slave traffic, and, as Lady Simon has said, 'all slaves are not ill treated!' there is no security for any of them. A good master may die to-day, and his slaves be sold into conditions worse than death. It is wrong that any one should have complete control over another human being. The vivid picture given in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' of the life of a slave under the rule of a good, if careless, master, and the break-up of his family life, and his sufferings and death as the result of his sale to a cruel one, is an unforgettable picture of the savage inhumanity of slavery."

NOTICE.

As THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is a monthly paper the Editor will be greatly obliged if items of news which the readers desire included are sent to her as early as possible, as they often arrive just after the JOURNAL has gone to press.

"THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Headquarters Address: 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Members of National Associations of Nurses visiting London always welcomed with pleasure.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER.

What is cellulitis? Describe some forms of treatment you would expect to be used for a case of cellulitis of the arm.

We regret we are unable to award a prize this month, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

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