

She went out and closed the door behind her, leaving the old man alone with his dead; while she went back to Esther and the children.

"Come, Essie," she said, lifting the whining, fretting child in her arms. "We will leave the baby with mother, while you and I go down and get breakfast ready."

Little Essie stopped crying, and held out her arms willingly towards Rachel. She had taken a wonderful fancy to this new aunt; and Rachel had that happy knack which attracts children almost at first sight; her management of them, for one so inexperienced, was wonderful; it seemed to come to her naturally.

"This is your eldest grandchild," said Rachel, as Elias came downstairs from the quiet room with its silent occupant.

"She's like her mother," he replied shortly, turning away from the little girl; who set up a howl of terror at sight of the strange, grim-visaged old man.

"Hush, Essie, you will wake baby. Go to your grandfather, dear, and shake hands with him," said Rachel, desperately; and Essie, wonderful to relate, for once did as she was bid, and went towards Mr. Stephens.

"She is obedient at any rate; and that is the first duty of youth," observed Elias approvingly.

Then, as Essie, even exceeding her instructions, not only held out her little plump hand, but raised her pretty pink

and white face to his, he stooped down, and kissed the child on her forehead. He looked very red and ashamed of himself when he had done it, and asked Rachel in crosser tones than ever, "What had become of his stick; where had she put it?"

She handed it to him silently from where he had laid it before going upstairs; and then, holding Essie by the hand, she turned to open the door.

As he passed her he thrust a little packet into her hand.

"Keep it," he said gruffly; "and when that's gone come to me for more. Don't let there be any grudging or skimping. I want everything done as well as it can be."

Then he walked quickly away up the road towards Aberelwyn, leaving Rachel no time for thanks, or questions, or acknowledgments of any kind.

Rachel opened the little roll, and found four five-pound notes. Old Elias was not quite so black as she had painted him. She felt a little qualm of conscience as she looked at the crisp bits of paper, and resolved that for the future she would not be quite so harsh and quick in her judgments of other people.

"I ought to be the last to judge anyone," she thought sadly. "I, who have been so misjudged myself. But he knows now, whatever he may have once thought. He did not die misdoubting me."

(To be continued.)

THE NURSING MIRROR.

Communications for this column should be addressed The Mirror, care of the Editor, 38, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

THE NICE NURSING HOME.

HAVING been a subscriber to your interesting journal since its publication, and appreciating in common with many others the honourable and liberal principles upon which it is conducted, I was surprised to find that you had published in this week's issue of THE HOSPITAL a letter which, in my opinion, is of too personal a character—evidently the outcome of petty spite—for insertion in a journal such as yours. I refer to your correspondent's letter re the "Nice Nursing Institution." Fortunately I am able to write disinterestedly, as I have never met either the present superintendent or her predecessor. This letter is calculated to be prejudicial to the reputation of the lady—whose system of management or personal character it is intended to condemn—as well as the Institution itself. Superintendents are too much at the mercy of unscrupulous persons, whom they may have had occasion to correct—and, however reluctantly, to make an example of perhaps—as it is; but THE HOSPITAL will indeed be opened with trepidation and not with pleasure if, through its agency, such personal "stabs" may be inflicted, and nurses warned, as it were, not to enter any particular institution where there has been "a change of superintendents," whose "ways" have not met with the approval of one, or it may be several, prejudiced or insubordinate persons. Of course anyone with common sense, if contemplating making an application to the "Nice Home," will not hesitate about doing so, in spite of this sweeping condemnation, until they have found out for themselves whether there is any truth in it or not.

Birmingham.

F. M.

[* * We publish this letter with pleasure, and also the one following it, which, as will be seen, is from the Lady Directress at Nice. We believe the best way to make unfounded charges fail is to let the actual facts be fully stated.—Ed. T. H.]

MORE ABOUT NICE.

As I have had many applications from nurses in consequence of the information kindly given about this institution by a correspondent in your number of March 3rd, it may be well if I correct one or two little mistakes made, and specify some of the qualifications desirable in nurses here, and so prevent disappointment to numbers who apply without being at all suitably qualified, and also spare myself much correspondence. First—the address is altered from Avenue Delphine to the one given below. Then, nurses are engaged for intervals between October 1st and June 1st, varying from eight to three months, according to agreements in each case. Applications to enter during the next season should be made early in the previous May, by letter to the Directress, at the Nice address, enclosing certificates of training and testi-

monials of later work, copied on thin paper, as the postage is 2½d. for each half-ounce. All particulars should be added as to health, age, height, weight, etc., and the address given of a referee in a responsible position. An interview with the Directress in London about the end of June is necessary before any decision can be made. It should be added that almost all the nurses engaged are daughters of clergymen, medical or other professional men; therefore, a considerable amount of general education is to be expected of them, including ability to speak French. Some knowledge also of German or Italian is desirable. As to special education in their profession, applicants should have had three years' training in a good general hospital, and private nursing in addition. A good knowledge of sick cookery is most important. The salary given is at the rate of £36 a-year, with three francs a-week for laundress; outdoor and indoor uniforms are provided, and all travelling expenses, as stated by your correspondent.

E. A. WOODCOCK (Directress).

Holland Nursing Institution,
4, Rue Adelaide, Nice,

THE BRITISH NURSES ASSOCIATION.

You have asked for the opinion of your readers about the British Nurses Association, and, speaking for other besides myself, I can safely say that we strongly object to a form of registration which will put any nurse who has worked three years on a footing with a thoroughly-trained nurse. As the scheme stands, a "Sairey Gamp" who has acted in her village for three years can demand such support as the society can give her. The whole theory of one central register for nurses is a mistake; the certificates given by hospitals are always a good guarantee, and ought not to be set aside for those given by a body which can have no complete or proper knowledge of those to whom they grant them. If only the many doctors who have lent their name to the British Nurses Association could see where the scheme tends, they would surely proceed with more caution. Some of the many antagonistic societies now being started amongst nurses must infallibly fall to the ground, and your warning to nurses to join no such societies in a hurry is heartily seconded by many.

F. H. M.

The London Hospital, March 13.

ANOTHER OPINION.

THE opinions of your readers having been asked in your last issue with regard to the proposed "British Nurses Association." I venture to write to say for myself, as a nurse here, and a number of my fellow-nurses, that we fully appreciate the scheme described in your article, and we heartily welcome the endeavour to form an association, being