they have their place as well as we. Looking at the subject from the people's standpoint, it seems rather hard lines for a man who is supporting his family upon from fifteen to thirty dollars per week to be forced to employ a nurse who charges fifteen dollars per week (at the very least) to take care of his wife if she chance to be attacked by some trifling illness. Many times all that is required is to keep the patient clean and comfortable and to administer food and medicine according to the doctor's directions. It certainly is not wise for a nurse to charge less than the usual fee for such cases, yet I am sure I should feel very uncomfortable many times in accepting my fee did I not know there were non-professional nurses in the city who could be procured for less money. It certainly should be against the law for them to claim to be graduates, but I hope, for the sake of the people, the time will never come when they may not be employed.

I would appreciate it very much, and think perhaps there are others who would also appreciate it, if diet-lists were published in the *JOURNAL* suitable for special cases,—Bright's disease, stomach troubles, etc.

A NEW SUBSCRIBER.

[Such a list was published in the November, 1900, number of the *JOURNAL*.—Ed.]

DETROIT, MICH., February 8, 1903.

DEAR EDITOR: In view of the fact that a movement is on foot to establish laws to regulate the practice of nursing, it may be well to call attention to the desirability of making the laws in the various States uniform, so that nurses who intend to change their location may not meet with unnecessary difficulties. You are undoubtedly aware that the medical practice acts vary considerably, and that much annoyance is caused thereby. I think that it is easier to establish uniform laws from the beginning than to change all individual laws afterwards in order to make them equal to those of other States.

EMIL AMBERG, M.D.

DEAR EDITOR: There is one subject which I have not seen mentioned in the *JOURNAL*,—namely, the dignified maintenance of nurses who are too old or who have become incapacitated, through loss of robust health, so that they are not able to do professional work.

Not long ago in a weekly journal I saw an advertisement to this effect: "A trained nurse in New York City would be glad to give her services for a part of the night in return for board, laundry, and a small compensation."

In the same journal I frequently see advertisements stating that a trained nurse would like a position as companion or as a nursery governess or to take care of an infant under a year old, and when I read them I always feel irritated. But, on the other hand, probably the women who advertise are in urgent need of employment, and, of course, to have had a nurse's training would be in their favor in securing the above-named positions. Also I have heard it stated by a prominent physician that a nurse ought not, as so many of them do, to engage herself to a maternity case for three months. He held that neither mother nor child, in a normal case, could be considered a patient after the lapse of four weeks, and that it was as undignified for a nurse to accept money for other than professional services as it would be for a lawyer or a physician to do so.