

that some of that 6 per cent who are paying an income tax are not riotously rich. Now we live in what is commonly called a democracy—and by that we vaguely imagine it to be a place where there is the greatest good to the greatest number, and so a statement like this about the income tax should make us all think. If the percentages were reversed and 90 per cent were paying an income tax and only 6 per cent were in poverty, we should still have something to think about. Frankly, what this proposed legislation means, in fact, is that we shall not think, but accept, the facts set forth and, on the basis of those damning facts, adjust our standards to the “God of things as they are.” The present standards of training and training schools were built up as the result of hard labor coupled with vision on the part of the pioneers in our profession. However, this is not the worst part of the proposed innovation, its viciousness lies in the fact that we would be recognizing and accepting classes. The rich are not always seriously ill, every time they are sick, nor are the poor always afflicted with just minor troubles, so it is difficult to see how these differently trained groups would differentiate among their patients. Then again it often happens that even a practical nurse loses as much sleep as a trained one, so her work is just as hard, even if it is not as well done. Are we ready to commercialize our profession? to say, if you have the money you will get the care, if not, we have provided a substitute for you. Is the medical profession to be asked to tamper with its standards in order to supply cheap doctors for this 94 per cent of our people? If our Americanism can accept any such levelling of our standards to meet the needs of a permanently submerged class, then we are indeed hopeless. While such conditions prevail they are a challenge to us. Nothing else is worth thinking or talking about until we change these percentages in our economic life. If we have industrial autocracy, let us get rid of it; if we do not, we may be sure it will get rid of us, and this plea for legislation to permit the lowering of our standards is the entering wedge of that autocracy that will destroy the standards, not only of the nursing profession, but of every other group within our nation. Let us keep our standards, and turn our attention toward some other solution of the problem of providing nursing care for the submerged 94 per cent of our population. I don’t want to sit supinely among the prosperous 6 per cent and lower my standards to cover up the ghastly inequalities of our economic system.

Iowa

F. O. B.

#### NURSING AMONG THE INDIANS

Dear Editor: Away up in the northeastern corner of New Mexico, on an Indian reservation, are 13,000 Navajo Indians. There is a small missionary hospital there, and three missionaries, one of whom is a nurse. When the influenza swept over the reservation, carrying death and desolation with it, all patients that could be accommodated were cared for in the hospital, and it was full to overflowing, by the nurse, the teacher, and the missionary in charge. Day and night they worked. When the wards were empty, the nurse went on horseback for days to the hogans, carrying dressings, comfort, medicines, and sympathy to those poor souls who are beginning to know God through her ministrations. Hers is not an easy position, for a doctor is not to be had often, and the tribes still use their own medicine men, who do not look with kindness on the medicines and treatments of our nurse. I want to tell you of their Christmas celebration. It was a very cold day and they did not expect many Indians in at the Mission, but their preparations went on just the same. They cut down a tree and dragged

it to the hospital and trimmed it. By eleven o'clock, hundreds of men, women, and children filled the place; some had come as far as 30 miles for the celebration. How little we appreciate our blessings in comparison with these. First they had a religious service, simple and beautiful, then a dinner was served, and then they gathered round the tree, sang carols, and a present of some sort was found for every one. They all went away happy, which is a rare thing in their sad lives. The next day the nurse took presents and food to the influenza sufferers in their hogans and returned radiant because she had been able to cheer so many. Is that not the true spirit of Christmas?

A. L. D.

#### INSTRUCTION IN HYGIENE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Dear Editor: Every woman should know something about nursing. The ignorance along these lines among the educated, well-to-do is simply appalling. Why not have a course of nursing principles, similar to the course in "Elementary Hygiene and Home Care of the Sick," given now by the Red Cross, taught in the Public Schools? This should be made compulsory in the eighth grade and in the first year of high school. This ought to insure better hygiene in the homes within a generation, and would be of inestimable help during an epidemic.

Nebraska

REGISTERED NURSE.

#### DOMESTIC SERVICE

Dear Editor: I attended, recently, a meeting called by the United States Employment Bureau at which various organizations were represented. A speaker from the Bureau stated that she had on file 350 calls for domestics and could only fill 7, that day. She also stated that she has three problems to cope with: (1) Lack of domestic servants; (2) The middle-aged woman wanting employment and not wanted by the employer; (3) Untrained workers asking for clerical work, those incapable of being clerical workers, but who decline to be anything else. The first problem was discussed from many standpoints. Statistics show the remarkable fact that only six hundred servant girls have landed in New York City during the past four years. Young women who, before the war, were contented in domestic service, have been drawn into men's work by the war conditions and refuse to go back into domestic service; that is, to "live in." They have had a taste of independence and they say they do not intend to return to the subservient life of a domestic. They are willing to work by the day at housework, but they wish to go home at night, and, really, who could blame them? They are willing to work in factories for less money, rather than return into so-called service. From the standpoint of the employers, people of moderate incomes, who live in small apartments, it would seem as though a regular servant would be unobtainable and the employer must be contented with four or five hours of work a day from a visiting helper. We, of the small income group, may be compelled to resort to a cafeteria for a dinner, after a day's work, if servants are unobtainable. It is not such a bad idea, either. Cafeterias, as run in the large cities on the Pacific Slope, are very attractive places; one gets good hot food at medium prices. One to every block in the apartment-house section of New York City would make us fairly independent of cooks; our laundry work could go out, and a woman could come in once a week to clean. This may be the condition a few months hence. Some apartment houses are dismissing the female operators on elevators and switch-boards to give the jobs to returned soldiers. What will become of these discharged women? Perhaps, later on, they will be