

where a reprimand given in the heat of anger might antagonize them forever. Nurses are too chary of well-deserved praise, both among themselves and those working under them. A little praise to ragged nerves is like oil to machinery; it helps the wheels of life go round. If an attendant has a strong individuality, she should be allowed to do unimportant things and routine work in her own way as much as possible, provided that way is good. There might be in her originality something of value. Who knows? The attendant fills unquestionably a small but very necessary place in the busy life of a large hospital. Charge nurses have their executive work to do; pupil nurses have their classes to attend; responsibility must at some time fall to the lot of the attendant. Why not develop good attendants, instead of letting bad ones develop themselves? A well-trained attendant might, at times, be invaluable to a nurse, just as a well-trained nurse is oftentimes indispensable to a great surgeon. Any institution wishing its attendants to acquire a high degree of efficiency should choose applicants possessing a fairly broad education; also qualities of adaptability, neatness and tact, honesty and willingness to learn. Having gotten hold of the right sort of people, each hospital should give them efficiency in its own particular line of work, an efficiency gained by more coöperation one with another, by a little less speed and a little more well-earned praise, and lastly by answering their questions of "Why?" in the classroom.

AN OBSERVER.

Dear Editor: The various articles in our JOURNAL are, if possible, more interesting than ever before, after my twenty-three months of service in France with the Harvard Unit, Base Hospital 5, B. E. F., and later temporarily attached to Mobile 6, A. E. F. I cannot tell you how happy I feel to know that Miss Parsons was called upon to tell of her experiences in France at the hearing before the sub-committee. We could, I am sure, have no better advocate. In Miss Stimson's letter, "Nurses Overseas," there is a great deal one could criticize, especially one of the first sentences where she tactlessly says that because of her twenty-five months' experience, she had better opportunity to know of the nursing situation in France than any other woman. This not very modest outburst is so utterly absurd, when we all know how many really fine, splendid, and wonderful women there were in the Army Nurse Corps who had more opportunity to see and learn thoroughly and truthfully the situation as it was. The nurses who were with the B. E. F. and afterwards joined the A. E. F. had the opportunity to compare the treatment received in both forces, and may I say here the difference was vast and appalling?

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