

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

I.

DEAR EDITOR: My attention has been called to an article appearing in the October number of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, pretending to quote Rev. Lewis G. Wood, and reflecting on the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses.

I regret that I was not able to be present at the meeting referred to, and I have no knowledge of what was said except as it is told to me.

I called Mr. Wood's attention to the quotation, and he says:

"I am grieved at such a misrepresentation of my sentiments and statements regarding the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses; suffice it to say, that I have never made any statement that could possibly be construed as inferring that the Guild of St. Barnabas has revolutionized the social status of the profession at large. Nor have I said that the nurses were social outcasts."

By giving the above the same publicity that the statement referred to received, you will be doing a favor to the Guild of St. Barnabas, and oblige,

Yours very respectfully,

ANNIE H. B. HOWE,
Secretary-General.

II.

DEAR EDITOR: Does the disgruntled ex-member of the Guild of St. Barnabas ever stop to consider that nurses, like other mortals, get out of the Guild what they put into it? I, too, am a recalcitrant member of the Guild, but received from it more than I gave it, for I did enjoy the services and I never gave anything to make them possible.

If a well-intentioned priest does make a break in referring to our social inferiority of ten years back, why should that disturb us? "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*" (Evil to him who evil thinks). By joining the Guild, if the social advantages are all that appeal to us, don't we expose ourselves to just criticism and patronage? Do many of us really try to live up to the obligations our membership imposes upon us? So few nurses of my acquaintance have ever done anything but criticize the Guild, and it appeals to so few of us, that something must be wrong, but can we be sure that the fault lies entirely with the Guild? It would be interesting to hear from nurses to whom the Guild really means something.

A PRESENT MEMBER OF THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS.

III.

DEAR EDITOR: Was it quite necessary for a "Former Member of the Guild of St. Barnabas" to start any discussion as to the social advantages of being a member, unless, indeed, she intends to rejoin? It must be remembered that the objects of the Guild are twofold, "religious" and "social,"—Article II, Section I of the constitution,—and that though there has never been the expectation of "revolutionizing the social status" of any of its branches with which alone it can be concerned, the greater number of members must feel that the social element that has been brought into their lives, through the contact with the associates, has led the way to much pleasant intercourse and