

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

* * We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In reference to your Editorial in this week's number, and your remarks as to "sober and far-seeing Matrons and Nurses" disapproving of Registration, will you allow me to point out that, though the arguments you use are strong and very convincing that it is all the other way, another argument might be used. It might be said that it is only an inferior class of Nurses who are joining the British Nurses' Association, women who are seizing on this opportunity of becoming attached to a powerful professional body only in order to improve their own position, and that it does not mean much to have secured a large number of these as members. Now, Sir, I know a great many of those who, like myself, have already joined the Association, and being employed in a large Hospital naturally I hear a good deal of Nursing news and gossip. My impression is—though, of course, it is only an impression, and I may be quite wrong—that few, if any, of the old-fashioned class of Nurses are joining the Association. They say, "What good will it do me?" or "I'll just wait and see how it goes on for a bit," or "I don't understand all these new-fangled ways," and so on. My impression is that it is the better-class educated Nurse who is joining the Association, and that it is because there are so many of these now at work that the Association has been so rapidly successful in point of numbers. If I am correct, then indeed I think your argument becomes all the stronger, that it is the sober and far-seeing Nurses who do desire Registration. I think it would be easy to test this idea. If any one would make a list of the Nurses who have been appointed Matrons to Hospitals since the Association started, and find out how many of these were members, it would be a good way of estimating the class of Nurses who have joined that body. If you think well of my suggestion and publish my letter, please let me sign myself

A BRITISH NURSE.

August 11, 1888.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Will you kindly correct a printing error in your issue of the 6th? The word "Commerce," seventh line, second paragraph, of my article, should be rendered "Converse."—Yours faithfully, ANNIE BLISSETT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

"Sister Margaret" begs to thank "A Late Lady Superintendent" and Miss Wood most sincerely for their lengthy and valuable letters in reply to her own, and as further help is kindly offered, "Sister Margaret" will be greatly obliged for a few suggestions concerning uniforms for the various members of the Staff, and also how the Ward linen is to be kept in repair.

[We referred this inquiry to "A Late Lady Superintendent," and have received the following kind reply.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In answer to "Sister Margaret's" wish for a few suggestions concerning Hospital uniforms, I should like to say, first of all, that it is desirable that they should be worn by all workers in the Ward, from the Lady Superintendent to the Ward Maid; also that it is an orderly custom for domestics in a public institution to be provided with a neat and distinctive dress during their hours on duty.

A Nurse's uniform should consist of dress, cap, apron, and cuffs and collars, of a separate colour and pattern for the different grades; and to prevent irregularities and innovations, it should be provided by the Hospital as part of their salary.

The make of all these garments should be of the simplest, the dress skirt just escaping the ground, put in gathers at the back, the bodice made amply large, with sleeves buttoned from wrist to elbow, so that they can be undone and easily turned back, if necessary. The apron should be of ample size, with neat bib, and the cap large, fitting neatly to the head, and tied under the chin, and so constructed that it can be easily untacked for washing and goffering; and neat white linen cuffs and collars (not too large and showy) of any pattern preferred.

For the Lady Superintendent, I should advise a plain black merino dress, with Victoria lawn cap, trimmed with washing Valenciennes lace; and if in a small Hospital, where she performs the duties of a Sister, an apron should be worn.

For Sisters or Head Nurses, navy blue or bottle green merino, or grey camelot gowns, white linen aprons, and lawn caps, trimmed with washing lace.

For Nurses or Probationers, blue and white striped galatea dresses—these are very clean looking and durable—pink cottons, or grey and white striped shirting, white linen aprons, and lawn caps, trimmed with Cash's Coventry frilling, No. 7.

Ward Maids, good cotton gowns, unbleached linen aprons, and mob caps, *without* the distinctive nursing badge of strings tied under the chin.

The colours are best combined as follows:—Head Nurse, dark green; Nurse, pink. Head Nurse, navy blue; Nurse, grey and white stripe. Head Nurse, grey camelot; Nurse, blue and white galatea. These details may appear "faddy," but good taste is as cheap as bad, though more rare, and before selecting the uniforms I should go so far as to ascertain the colour of the Ward walls, and choose accordingly.

To keep the ward-linen in perfect repair, each piece must be examined as it is returned from the laundry. This I always did myself, putting aside that which required mending, and dividing a part amongst the Nurses every week, and always taking a large share myself, with which the parlour maid helped me; also, everything which could be made with the machine, such as the sheets, &c., was made by ourselves (although many firms now provide bed linen ready made). Shirts, night-gowns, and jackets (when we could not beg them ready made from kind friends), were made by a local seamstress, who also made the Nurses' caps and aprons. I fear Miss Wood must think me a very extravagant manager concerning bed linen, from the amount she advocates for weekly use; but the standard of cleanliness concerning every detail in the Wards of our little hospital was of the highest, and our Medical

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