

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—A very serious and pressing question has been mentioned in "G. R. A.'s" letter of the 21st ult. The letter ends, "Let us hope that the description of qualities required in a Matron, so clearly given forth last night (alluding to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's paper, "The Matron"), may make Hospital committees to seek out such women for their vacant posts." There is no denying that, by the present system of canvassing Governors and Medical Staff, the woman who can bring the greatest amount of interest to bear upon these gentlemen, is, as a rule, the person who gains the appointment. In strict justice, no canvassing, personal or otherwise, should be permitted for a moment; candidates should stand upon their own merits—that is, upon the acknowledgment of those with whom they have worked previously, as a capable woman soon gains a reputation in a public institution when she lives always before the public. It would also be a wise rule to make it necessary that before being appointed as Matron, a woman should have worked as a Sister or Head Nurse. She then knows the anxieties and difficulties of those holding these important posts. I should greatly like to hear the opinion of recognised authorities in the Nursing world on this question. Perhaps Miss Catherine Wood will be good enough to say what she thinks; as she was absent from the B.N.A. meeting on the 15th ult., we lost the benefit of her opinion.—Yours faithfully,

MATRONA.

#### A NURSES' HOTEL.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—A lady, who is much interested in Nursing, has requested me to ventilate a scheme for their benefit in your columns.

Some Nurses, engaged in Private Nursing on their own account, find the question of lodgings, the management of their letters, telegrams, &c., in their absence, a great difficulty and expense. The idea is to open a Nurses' Hotel in a central situation, where such might either rent and furnish a room, or be provided with a furnished room on their returning from a case. The hotel would provide meals in a common room at a fixed tariff, and the use of a recreation room. The advantages to Nurses would be a permanent address and a responsible manager to forward their letters, receive messages, and conduct their business in their absence. The scheme cannot be entered upon unless there are a sufficient number of names promised to make it a commercial success. As a preliminary, I have offered to receive any communication addressed to me, in the first instance, by letter, to No. 7, St. George's Mansions, Red Lion Square, W.C., from any Nurse wishing to have such a residence provided, or any Medical man who has a suggestion to offer.—I am, Sir, yours,

C. J. WOOD.

#### JEWISH NURSES.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—Although I am a Christian, I have for some years been accustomed to Nurse many Jews and Jewesses. I cannot think that they would be much more comfortable, or that any advantage would be gained for them, by employing Nurses of their own religion. I see in "Nursing Notes," of March 7th,

you say that "the community want Nurses, not only to tend their sick, but also to perform the last offices for the dead." The innumerable rules of the Talmud as well as the Levitical Law would surely render this impossible, unless two distinct sets of Nurses were employed, one for the dead and one for the living, as no sick Jewess would care to be touched by one who had rendered herself unclean by contact with the dead. I think I am right in saying that a dead Jew is never touched and seldom seen by any woman, whether Christian or Jewess. The laws for the Sabbath, too, would render Nursing work most difficult for Jewesses. I have worked under many Rabbis, and never had any trouble except once in the case of a Jew who had declared himself a Christian, but not been baptised; and that was caused by the Rabbi and the Christian friends both giving directions, which of course were contrary. In a large Ward, in case of death, there are great difficulties, but whenever a dying Hebrew can be moved into a private room, I think that if the Sister will attend to the ritual directions given by the Rabbi, she will find them as agreeable to her feelings as a Christian as they can be to his as a Jew.

As to the question of engaging Hebrew Nurses indiscriminately amongst Christian Nurses, one must have been much with Hebrews, and much with Nurses, fully to appreciate the difficulties which would arise. If arrangements were made which would make it possible for the devout Jewess, it would press very hardly on the consistent Christian. If Jewesses are really anxious to learn Nursing, and to make it a profession recognised in their community, why is the Evelina Hospital to such a great extent nursed by Christians?

I write this letter with the deepest respect for those members of the Hebrew race, who with the utmost reverence keep up the customs of their race, and the laws of their Church. There are no people who can be better, firmer, or more generous friends; but what would they think of the Christian who concealed the ordinary signs of faith, such as pictures of scenes in the New Testament, or omitted grace at meals for their convenience?

I should think the question might easily be settled, however, by having a Hospital for Agnostic patients, and engaging a Staff of Nurses who were Hebrews, but not members of the Jewish Church, and Gentiles but not Christians, and seeing how it worked.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

MATRON.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—Will you kindly inform a Trained Nurse in the next issue of "The Nursing Record," is there any way of procuring "Quain's Dictionary of Medicine," either second-hand or at a slight reduction, in London? Is there not some such bookseller in Holborn? I shall feel very grateful for information on the subject.

NURSE BESSIE.

[Try Mr. Kimpton, bookseller, Wardour Street, W.—ED.]

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—I am anxious to enter a Hospital as ordinary Probationer. I was under the impression that the age for entering was from twenty-two years. I have been trying for a vacancy at several Hospitals, but find the age for entering was from twenty-three to twenty-five

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