

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

. WHILST CORDIALLY INVITING COMMUNICATIONS UPON ALL SUBJECTS FOR THESE COLUMNS, WE WISH IT TO BE DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WE DO NOT IN ANY WAY HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY CORRESPONDENTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In answer to "Enquirer," her best plan would be to apply to the Secretaries of some of the London Hospitals, if she has means with which to help poor patients, by giving letters for Convalescent Homes, &c. She will probably be welcomed, as many Hospitals are in need of help, and some have lady visitors appointed officially to certain Wards to visit and read to the patients.—Yours,

HON. SECRETARY.

WHITE SLAVERY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—“Nurse” is right. We Nurses—at least those worthy of the name—consider ourselves greatly to be envied in being selected from numberless applicants to work in our Hospital Wards, and those amongst us who have not the strength—or, may be, the inclination—to do a good day's work, had better seek another occupation. Any Hospital where “white slavery” exists, as described by the *Pall Mall*, is an exception to the institutions of the metropolis and should be named in justice to others who consider their Nursing Staff in every particular. I have heard a Matron say her greatest difficulty was to persuade unsuitable women to give up attempting to nurse.—I remain, yours truly,

ANOTHER NURSE.

[We have received numbers of letters on the above subject, expressing the same views as “Charge Nurse,” “Nurse” and “Another Nurse.”—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Can you inform me if the B.N.A. intends to supply a badge or something that will denote who are members? So many Nurses have said how much they would like to wear some badge or distinguishing token that they belong to such a good venture. I am sure every member will be only too glad to purchase whatever badge the B.N.A. would adopt.

Will you insert this letter in your *Record*, and let us see what other members may think of the suggestion?—Yours truly,

SISTER AGNES.

[It appears to us that this is a matter which may well be discussed. Probably, if a strong wish for such an ornament were expressed by the Members, the Council of the Association would consider its feasibility.—ED.]

IS NURSING A FINE ART?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—There are enthusiasts in every cause who are apt to weaken it by excess of zeal. Such an one is your

correspondent, “A Charge Nurse,” who in a burst of rapture declares Nursing to be the finest of fine arts. Let us consider the amazing conclusion to which this sweeping premise may lead us. That the fine arts, as portrayed by the chisel of a Phidias, the brush of a Raphael, the pen of a Milton, the strains of a Handel, the colossal genius of a Michael Angelo, are less fine than the arts of poulticing and bandaging are! Can we really admit this? Nursing *is* an art, a merciful and blessed one, but the “finest of the fine arts,” surely no! A Hospital Ward *may* be the best place in the world (for the sick), and if a surgical one, may harmonise with the

“Cyprus with which Dante crowned
His visionary brow,”

for I can recall no other poet who found inspiration in the scenes of human suffering.

There is also a suggestion in “Charge Nurse’s” letter that a renunciation of all the refinements of life is laudable in a Nurse. She is followed by a “Parish Priest,” who harps upon the same strain, and doubtless a similar idea permeates other minds than theirs, though it is hard to fully understand the reason why. Are women of education and refinement *less* likely to show consummate skill in their nursing work, attention to minutest detail and tenderest sympathy with suffering, because when off duty they care for the “paltry considerations” that give a charm and grace to every woman’s life, and why not a Nurse’s too?

It is well to remind the present generation of Nurses how much the modern art of nursing owes to women of noble birth and gentle blood. Years ago they found it as it were captive to earth, like a wounded dove, helpless and defiled. With pitying hand they raised her from the mire of ignorance and neglect, tended her with unwearied care, and when her lovely pinions were healed and purified, sent her forth, freed and fitted for her native skies.

Sister workers of to-day, whilst you treasure this precious inheritance and show yourselves wisely zealous for the honour of your art, cherish ever the widest catholicity of feeling towards every member of it—gentle or simple.

“Honour and shame from no condition rise.
Act well your part—there all the honour lies.”

—I am, Sir, yours truly,

JUSTITIA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Can you kindly tell me of a book giving a simple explanation of the meaning and methods of “Antiseptic treatment” suitable for the instruction of Probationers?

PROVINCIAL MATRON.

[“Antiseptics: A Handbook for Nurses,” by Mrs. Annie M. Hewer (Crosby Lockwood and Son, 7, Stationers’ Hall Court), would exactly fulfil your requirements.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Home Sister.—You will find Cassell’s new monthly magazine, “Book of the Household,” invaluable. The first number was issued in March, and it is to be completed in twenty-four parts.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)