

Nurses of St. John's undertook the nursing of King's College Hospital. I look with much thankfulness to the thorough and systematic training I underwent there; and I must add, with reference to Dr. Cullingworth's interesting lecture last week, that the St. John's Sisters always insisted upon disinfectants being properly measured in graduated bowls kept for the purpose.

Miss Nightingale's fame is, justly, so great, that I feel I take nothing from it when I urge the recognition of the efforts of those earnest men and women who, some years before the Crimean War, were working in the cause of Trained Nursing. My authorities for my statements are old reports of St. John's House, the newspapers for July, 1848, and for October, 1854, and "In Memoriam, R. B. Todd," by Dr. Lionel Beale.—Believe me, sir, yours truly, K. H., M.B.N.A.

ENGLISH NURSES IN PARIS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Seeing by a paragraph in the *Nursing Record* of May 2 that you are under the impression that it is very easy for English Nurses to obtain work in Paris, I write to undeceive, if I may, both you and the Nursing public on that point. "Figure to yourself," as the French say, if it is at all likely that French people will employ foreign Nurses when they can obtain their own Sisters of Charity as easily and as cheaply as they do.

The only patrons that remain to our Nurses then are the English and Americans; and from my experience of the two nations, I regret to say that our compatriots, wishing probably to be French and fashionable, follow very much the example of the nation. We have then as our strongest support—in fact, almost the only support of our profession in Paris—the Americans, who, as long as they get a good thing, do not demand that it should be fashionable and consequently French.

We poor English are, moreover, accused by your informant of not trying to improve ourselves in the language of the country, and of not cultivating the acquaintance of the people in order that we might be benefited by their conversational powers. Now, I should like to know what your informant means. Are we to go and leave cards on the great world and introduce ourselves into their salons, apologising amiably for our intrusion by telling them we want to learn French? Or, are we supposed to hob and nob with servants, shopkeepers and cabbies in order to make ourselves conversant with their peculiar method of speaking? If your informant will kindly let us know which course to pursue, I am sure all the English Nurses in Paris will be only too glad to avail themselves of his or her wise suggestions. R. P.

[We hope that our informant, whose excellent knowledge of the subject we have no occasion to doubt, will reply to this letter.—ED.]

THE NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I was both amused and interested to read the letter signed "C.," from Buffalo, N.Y., who stated she was working as Night Superintendent, and to find that my little letter—written so many months ago—had been

read across the Atlantic. Hoping to be of some use, I will answer her enquiries one by one. As I stated before, I am called at 7.45 p.m., and presiding at the Nurses' table means being in the Dining Room ten minutes before the hour for meals, seeing that the table is neatly arranged, cloth and crockery clean, that a plentiful supply of food is ready, and at breakfast "wetting the tea," as we name it in this rural district; that the maids are in attendance to hand round food, and that the bell is sounded with exact punctuality. At all meals I say grace, carve and serve, and last, but not least, put the name down in Matron's report-book of any Nurse who is not in her seat at the time appointed. Should any Nurse not feel well enough to appear, I visit her immediately after the meal, take her temperature, and at once report result to the Matron, who arranges for the visit of the Doctor, and if necessary supplies her place in the Ward. In this Hospital, owing to the Nurses' term of training extending over three years, there is always a sufficient supply of trained experienced Nurses on night duty, and in consequence the Head Nurses retire to rest at ten p.m., feeling that the patients are in the charge of capable women during the night. My duties therefore consist in superintending the work of the Staff Nurses on night duty; and it is seldom that they are unable to perform their duties. I make three rounds of the Hospital between the hours of ten p.m. and eight a.m., when the day Head Nurses (Sisters) come on duty, choosing my own time; and I am always ready to give a helping hand when it is required, sitting by bad cases whilst the Nurse gets her tea, helping to change a typhoid, &c., and never permitting one Nurse to perform the last offices for the dead. If there is no second Nurse in the Ward, I always help with this solemn duty. Should a House Physician or Surgeon make a late round during my visit to the Ward, the rule is that I and the Ward Nurse accompany him; the latter writing all reports for the Head Nurse, I doing the same thing for the Matron, who really holds the position, very rare in English country Hospitals, of Superintendent of NURSING, or as they have it in America, Chief Nurse. I may add that a Night Sister requires to exercise great tact and patience, as she is an innovation in the Hospital system, and is still rather a "suspect." The good old days when cinders were placed beneath the doors by drowsy Night Nurses, and which gave timely warning of the "night hawk's" approach, are past and gone; instead, if kind and helpful, she will now always receive a hearty welcome.

I am glad to read that in Buffalo the Lady Superintendent of the School gives instruction herself to the pupil Nurses. I hope she also takes part in their examinations.

I hope Night Superintendent is watching the progress of our B.N.A. with admiration.—I remain, yours truly, NIGHT SISTER.

BADGE OR NO BADGE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The desire for a badge expressed by many Members of the B.N.A. is not unreasonable, and if submitted to the Executive, may possibly be taken into consideration. If conceded, I presume the badge will be identical with the seal of the B.N.A., if, or when

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)