

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 our correspondents.

Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I think "Nance" would find all she desires in abdominal belts for comfort, durability and price by writing to Messrs. Stapley and Smith, 128, London Wall, E.C. They are the makers of the "Alpine Wool Corset," worn by so many Hospital Nurses now. I am always charmed with their things: they wear well and are not beyond one's slender purse.—Faithfully yours,
PROWLER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I have had inquiries from country Infirmaries as to how it was possible for their Nurses to obtain a certificate, and if there was any "centre" for examinations. Now I think the idea of a "centre" or "centres" for such examinations is a good one, as very good Nurses can be trained in small Hospitals such as I have referred to, but for many reasons it would be injudicious for the authority in charge to grant certificates. Their doing so would soon bring them into contempt. But it would be otherwise if the Nurses received their certificate after undergoing a thorough practical and theoretical examination at some "centre," and there might be one or more of these for each division of the Kingdom. This subject is worth your consideration, and the B. N. A. is the proper body to carry it out to a satisfactory conclusion.—

Yours very truly,
M. THOMAS, M.D.
Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. (*Superintendent*).

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I was pleased to see, in your Editorial of the 19th ult., that you share my views that a Midwife is none the less a skilful Midwife because she takes a practical interest in Midwifery Nursing. I know the dual knowledge has brought me in hundreds of pounds, and has enhanced the good opinion my patients are kind enough to entertain about me, although they know as well as I do that I only practise upon a professional basis. An interest in nursing matters has endeared me (I use the word quite advisedly) to my patients in *all* ranks of life.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,
OBSTETRICA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I was surprised on reading your Editorial in No. 63 of the *Nursing Record* to see that the Matron of the London Hospital is opposed to Nurses joining the B.N.A., and consequently participating in the various schemes the Association advocates for the welfare of Nurses and the improvement of the Nursing profession; it is the more surprising coming from

the pen of the authoress of "Lectures on Nursing" and "Hospital Sisters and their Duties." As I have not read the pamphlet in question, I can only speak of the several extracts that you gave and criticised in such an able manner.

But I would just like to ask Miss Luckes if she has ever at school had to copy these words, "In union is strength"; and whether she has ever known any body of workers who have deteriorated as a class because they have joined themselves together for some common aim? Also, whether the Medical profession has lost or gained social status since it has been hedged about with examinations and, above all, Registration? What was the position of a Medical man at the beginning of this century compared to to-day? No one need employ a quack now unless they prefer to do so. And although much has been done to improve Nursing of late years, the labour, in many instances, will be in vain till Trained Nurses have their interests protected by Registration.

I feel very strongly on this point, and I speak from experience when I say that Nurses, as a rule, who are considered incapable of Nursing in a Hospital, after a few months' trial usually take up Private Nursing. I have known several who were dismissed from a Hospital *without a certificate* taken on their own word on the staff of a Nursing Institute.

I know of two Nurses at present who are earning from £3 to £5 a week. One was three months in a Hospital, the other nine; and both were dismissed for very grave faults. Many Medical men refuse to employ Trained Nurses, from the experience they have had of so-called Trained Nurses. I could give many more instances, but I think I have said enough. And if the B. N. A. does nothing else but get the Bill passed to Register Nurses, it will be all gain to those who deserve it.

As to the difficulties attending Registration, I cannot say it gives one a high opinion of the intelligence of those who do not understand a little at least about the Registration of other professions. And I do not suppose there will be a special committee formed to treat the genuineness of any certificate from a well-known School of Training. I trust the day is not far distant when Hospitals will have a uniform standard of training, that all who aspire to become a Trained Nurse will have to pass. So that our Hospitals will become to our Nurses what the University is to our students, a training school, where the position of a *woman* is only limited by her ability to do. That is work for the future, and for the B.N.A. In union is strength. I am afraid my remarks are very stale by this time, but I felt so indignant after reading your Editorial that I sat down at once to write, and as the mail closes in half-an-hour, I trust you will excuse the brevity of some of my remarks.—Yours truly,
TASMANIA.

[We are glad to be able to insert this letter from our esteemed correspondent, who reads the *Nursing Record* right away almost the other side of the globe.—ED.]

. Notice to our readers.—Owing to very considerable pressure upon our space we are compelled to omit *Hospital Intelligence and Women and Their Work* from this issue.

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