



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;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.*

*We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.*

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

## THE SILVER WEDDING PRESENT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—The interesting announcement made by our Hon. Sec. (Miss Wood), at the meeting of the R.B.N.A. on February 20, and reported in your issue for March 5, that the Association proposed to present H.R.H. the Princess Christian with a silver wedding present, doubtless attracted the attention of my sister Members, and we shall all anxiously look forward to additional particulars to be given in our forthcoming official journal.

It appears to my mind there are certain points respecting this proposal that it would be as well to bring forward as speedily, and diffuse as widely, as possible, and I must premise that the few remarks I have to offer are more especially addressed to our *Nurse* members, my co-workers in the busy hive of Nursing industry.

If it were merely a question of a silver wedding present, I frankly confess the matter would arouse but a languid interest in my mind, and I might even be conscious of an uneasy feeling that we Nurses might be taking rather too much upon ourselves, and certainly I should never think of obtruding my opinions upon my sister Members or anybody else. But there is something more than a silver wedding present here, for I feel sure my sister-Members, in common with myself, will hail the event as an auspicious and welcome opportunity for every one of us to give a tangible token of our appreciation of, and gratitude for, the important and gracious services rendered to our Association by H.R.H. the Princess Christian, from our earliest days of struggle until now.

As Nurses, we cannot be expected, nor is it in our power, to present a costly gift; it is the *feeling that inspires it* that alone can render it worthy of the illustrious recipient, and give a dignity to the humblest dole.

Let us "take occasion by the hand" and show ourselves worthy of it! From every corner of our native land, from distant climes, from mighty India, wherever our several paths of duty lie, let the generous tribute flow; and as a woman's union, show how truly we appreciate a woman's worth—one of the best beloved daughters of our Queen.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,  
MARIAN HUMFREY.

## PADDINGTON GREEN HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I much dislike anonymous correspondence, and am sorry "Disinterested" could not find it convenient to sign her name. Seeing that she has taken five weeks in which to think about a reply to my letter of the 29th January (to which I presume she alludes), it would have been better had she written in less ambiguous terms. I must confess my inability to discover quite what she means. Does she infer that a Nurse, however ill, cannot be sent off duty simply because it is inconvenient? If so, that explains a great deal. As to

Nurses having a "firm decision," a girl of nineteen cannot be expected to possess very firm decision, and for such young Nurses in our Hospitals we expect a certain amount of oversight and care.

"Disinterested's" letter lauds the management of Paddington Green Hospital; of course this much at least is obvious. Very well, Sir, by all means let us "hear both sides." The opinion of many people, who know quite as much about the facts as "Disinterested" appears to know, is that the Hospital management is not quite so perfect as she would have us suppose. The results of the apathy, negligence, or carelessness (call it what you will) shown there have been so calamitous, that it is felt that reform is imperatively called for. It may be hoped that the investigation (a copy of the report of which is in your hands), although apparently so barren of result, may further this end, and that the Hospital may never again have to chronicle so sad and disgraceful an episode. Once and for all, allow me to say that my past intercourse with all known to me at Paddington Green Hospital has always been of a friendly nature, and therefore no reasonable person can suppose that any other motive than duty has actuated me in this painful matter. But as you yourself know well, a vast amount of opprobrium always attaches to anyone making charges of this nature, however true the charges or pure the motive. Such must always be an uncongenial task. I shall be obliged if you will publish this, and remain, Sir, very truly yours,  
C. CONINGSBY.

[We have other correspondence in type on this subject.—ED.]

## MRS. TAYLOR'S ESSAY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Your indignant correspondent, who signs herself "One of the Ranks," has justice and common sense on her side, and I must protest against some of Mrs. Taylor's theories, as expressed in her essay of the 26th ult., on "Obedience." Her *régime* is obsolete. No notion can be more false and pernicious than that which imagines that a Hospital Matron is a *mistress*, the subordinate Nurses her *servants*. They are senior and junior *officials* of the Institution. A system which permits of promotion by payment is not only unjust, but vulgar, and will very speedily be swept away in our Hospitals as it has been in the army.

The *raison d'être* for two classes of Probationers has almost disappeared, and will do so absolutely when our Nursing Schools have been organised upon a sensible financial basis. There is no occasion for loss of temper concerning these details, as thorough reform in our system of Nursing education is bound to follow the publicity lately given to the subject.—Yours truly,

A RADICAL MATRON.

## NURSING AT SOUTH DEVON HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Allow me to send you a copy of part of a letter received this morning from a lady nursing in the South Devon Hospital at Plymouth, which will show you that the evils you so ably expose as existing in the London Hospital are equally ripe in others. What I send is not necessarily for publication, but you may make what use you like of it—suppressing names, as Nurses dare not run the risk of dismissal by making known themselves to the public the treatment they have to bear uncomplainingly. My young friend writes:—

"I am going to tell you about my work last week, from Monday, and see what you think of it. After being up all night (in the children's ward, thirty beds occupied), on Monday morning Matron came to me and asked me, if, after I had had my *breakfast*, I would clean the out-patients' room and begin some of the dressings. I did so, and had thirty-eight out-patients, and did not get out of the out-patients' room

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)