

all due fairness to the public and the Medical profession, I must acknowledge that Nursing is too sacred and responsible a work to be done by people working individually. It is decidedly a protection to the public for Nurses to work in connection with an Institution, and as a general rule, I do not think a Registry for Nurses, separate from a Home, a desirable institution; it is *necessary* for the Lady Superintendent to live with her Nurses, and so get an insight into their personal character and habits, besides being satisfied with her certificates and testimonials. A Nurse may be all that is required during her training, but afterwards may contract habits which would be disastrous to those she had under her care. It is also a safeguard to the Nurse herself to join an institution to which she has belonged for years, so that her character may not be at the mercy of a patient whose illness might affect their judgment. There is no doubt great responsibility and power given to the Hospital Trained Nurse; her's is a noble and unselfish work, but she is in the midst of unknown temptations, and needs to be a woman of high principle and moral courage. In short, only those who are resting on a higher strength than their own, and look to the Great Physician themselves, should take up such duties. I enclose my card, and remain yours faithfully, M. H.

P.S.—I need not say that I think the Nurse should have her own fees, less a small percentage for working expenses.

[We regret to be compelled to point out to our correspondent that she has entirely misunderstood the question. Registration of Nurses is the enrolment of Nurses' names, addresses, and Hospital training in a published book. It has nothing whatever to do with a Registry Office from which Nurses can be obtained. A Registered Nurse may work with a Home, and an unregistered Nurse may work on her own account, or *vice versa*. The Register merely states to the public when and where a Nurse was trained, and where she lives.—ED.]

THE "YARD-WAND" POLICY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The "yard-wand" policy of the authorities of St. Thomas's Hospital is an "eye-opener" for the public generally. Those Nurses who have worked in its Wards are by no means surprised at this attitude towards a body of independent women workers.

I would ask Mr. Wainwright by what right he has assumed the position of Dictator-in-General to the Nursing world? I, for one, beg to inform him that I do not intend to acknowledge his authority, and I believe there are hundreds of independent Nurses, beyond the Members of the R.B.N.A., who feel that the time has come to protest publicly against the attitude assumed by the lay Committees of some of our so-called Training Schools, where one picks up scraps of Nursing knowledge as best one can during the rush and tear of twelve or fourteen hours' manual labour per day. And I would ask Mr. J. G. Wainwright half-a-dozen simple questions concerning the Nursing School over which he rules.

Is the length of training for Nurses (one year) the same in 1892 as in 1872?

Are paying Pros. still promoted to be Sisters (responsible for the efficient nursing of thirty unfortunate patients) after *six months'* training in the Wards?

Are the Staff Nurses still kept on duty till *ten p.m.*?

Are Nurses still bribed to behave themselves by the grant of a dole of *two pounds* yearly for a term of three years?

Are the Wards still left in charge of an ignorant Probationer whilst the Sister and Staff Nurse go to dinner?

Can a Hospital where these regulations are in force be called a Nurse-Training School?

I doubt it, anyway, as an old Hospital worker, and now, free from its cramping vicinity, I join heartily with those in-

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