

like to solve. It is morally certain that a Nurse who had not moral courage and strength of mind sufficient to resist the temptation in whatever form it might meet her, would most assuredly lack the courage to go to the Matron and tell her so. I think Miss Hicks rather overrates the advice and sympathy which the Private Nurse is supposed to get from her Matron. The fact is, there are only a very few Matrons who know or care what difficulties and trials her Private Nurses have to contend with, so long as she goes home with a good report. Hence the lack of sympathy which would sometimes be welcomed and appreciated by the Nurse. Granting that the Private Nurse is exposed to tremendous temptations. "I like the expression." I think to publish the fact, with the implied suggestion, that alone and unaided we are almost certain to fall is about the most uncharitable assertion that could possibly be made. Surely Miss Hicks must have forgotten that she was speaking of educated, respectable women, whose every sense of womanly pride cannot but feel outraged at the implied weakness, not to use any harsher term. I do not myself see but that a Nurse with a Matron is just as likely to yield to a temptation in an unguarded moment as a Nurse without one, therefore let me advise all Private Nurses to daily use the prayer, "Lead us not into temptation." But deliver us from Matrons. Miss Hicks' statement seems to me as rather suggesting the idea that a register would be invaluable to the public if the Nurses' names, qualifications, and Matrons' names were stated, as then anyone could see at a glance which Nurse was sure to come off victorious in her fight against "the world, the flesh, and the devil," having the advantage of such and such a Matron's help. The Nurses not blessed with a guardian angel in the form of a Matron, must of necessity fight their own battles, which I can honestly say we mean to do for the benefit of our Association, and the good of the profession, in the face of all opposition. —Yours faithfully,

A NURSE WITHOUT A MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—As a Nurse who has worked for more than four years on her own account, I beg to protest against the statement made by Miss Hicks, that Nurses need the guardianship of a Matron. I don't think I have ever been credited with strength of mind above my fellow Nurses, and, as I am not yet thirty, may have been considered young when I started. The woman who cannot rank with Cæsar's wife, above suspicion, is unsuited for a Nurse at all. I think Miss Hicks must have been singularly unfortunate in her experience of Nurses. I worked about a year on the private staff of the Institution to which I belonged for four years, and fail to see any advantage the Institute was to me; while, since leaving, have had financial advantages, and, when off duty, am as free as the air, instead of having to ask for every half-hour almost as a favour. My own opinion is that the reason so many Nurses remain in Institutions is the want of a little capital to start. Since it is all paid back, I don't mind confessing I borrowed mine.—I am, yours faithfully,

"DORIS," M. R. B. N. A.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I have read the "intelligent views" of Miss Hicks. I do not approve of them. She casts infamy and reproach, not alone upon the whole body of Nurses, but on our suffering fellow creatures, in their hours of weariness and pain, when death may be very near. Has she experienced such ignobility on their part? By what standard does she form her opinion? Is it her own? "Honi soit qui mal y pense." I do not deny that interest and counsel are valuable indeed, from one who is worthy to give them, but the salvation comes only through a Higher Power, by which alone we stand secure in our own self-respect—true to our womanhood. I should advise Miss Hicks to seek this for herself, and the Charity that thinketh no evil.—I remain, Sir,

ONE WHO IS PROUD OF BEING A NURSE.

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