The Training of Midwives.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Madam,—There is little doubt that "The Matron of a Lying-in Hospital" touches a very sore point in the midwife question. As she states that a lengthened training in the wards of the lying-in hospitals will materially decrease their receipts, as the fees are much higher for this special branch of education than are charged by the general hospitals for the same period of time, and very few women desiring to be midwives and maternity Nurses can afford to pay for a lengthened term of training at the present rate. The benefit of further experience will therefore have to be obtained at a cheaper rate, or many necessary workers will be excluded. I do hope that the medical men who are discussing this great question of the education and registration of Nurses and midwives will not form conclusions without conferring with those most interested, and who have practical experience. I agree with the above-mentioned correspondent that at present but a limited number of three years' trained Nurses will be prepared to act in dull country districts and low town parishes as midwives at minimum fees. This subject needs very free discussion before further action is taken.

Yours truly,

Emily Anderson.

"Our Pioneers."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Madam,—A right note was sounded in the "Echoes" last week in the allusion of a correspondent to "the Old Style Nurse," and the spirit of gratitude and reverence by which the letter was inspired, will, I feel sure, be re-echoed in the hearts of many "latter-day Nurses." As a Bart.'s Nurse of some twelve years' standing, and one who received her training in that great school during a period when many of the wards were yet superintended by what is tender care of the linen, its systematic mending, airing, folding, and if need be, washing, I have no fear but that before long they will be ready to think, must be consulted first, and I am sure they will be willing to help the work on.

At present very little has been done in the movement, and the names of the Board of Management are not published, therefore the Commissioners in Lunacy may head the list, or medical men, or many years will elapse before the Nursing Staff of Asylums will be on the same footing as our Hospitals, but compare Hospital Nursing as it was fifty, twenty—yes or less ago with what it is now, and Asylum Nurses need have no fear but that before long they will rank with our Hospital Nurses. What is wanted to make this movement a success is, to my mind, the hearty co-operation of all Asylum workers—not only Nurses, medical officers, &c., but of the Commissioners in Lunacy themselves. The difficulties to be met by the Committee are great, and many years will elapse before the Nursing Staff of Asylums will be on the same footing as our Hospitals, but compare Hospital Nursing as it was fifty, twenty—yes or less ago with what it is now, and Asylum Nurses need have no fear but that before long they will rank with our Hospital Nurses. What is wanted to make this movement a success is, to my mind, the hearty co-operation of all Asylum workers—not only Nurses, medical officers, &c., but of the Commissioners in Lunacy themselves.

The Commissioner's as a body are held in a little awe by Asylum workers; they have a knack of finding out so many discrepancies, that it must be acknowledged that without them to constitute its proceedings, the Association will be a failure, especially as they at least are doing a great deal already to improve the tone of Asylum Nurses, and I believe I am correct in stating that one of them was the first medical officer to introduce women of higher culture than the ordinary attendant into his Asylum. They, I am inclined to think, must be consulted first, and I am sure they will be willing to help the work on.

Dear Madam,—At last the public is awake to the fact that something must be done to raise the standard of Nurses in our Asylums, and the next meeting of the Association for the purpose is anxiously awaited by all Nurses whose hearts are in their work.

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