



Letters to the Editor.

(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.

LOCAL CENTRES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—It appears to me, as an old member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, a most unconstitutional proceeding that suggestions for the formation of Local Centres should appear in the Journal of the Association, evidently written by a person who has no professional knowledge—or, indeed, any knowledge of the constitution of the Association, before such suggestions have been accepted by the Executive Committee, and have been submitted to the Council, the governing body of the Association, for their sanction. But accepting the fact that the present official clique ignore the Bye-laws and the Charter of the Association, the members individually have the power, thanks to your courtesy and sense of justice to protest against schemes which they consider contrary to the spirit and, indeed, to the letter of our Association. I, also, am a country Matron of some standing, and joined the Royal British Nurses' Association upon the distinct understanding that it was a body of professional persons—Nursing and medical—who were anxious to organise the workers and advance our professional position, and until lately the Association has acted honourably with its members, and kept to its bond. But should the mischievous suggestion be carried into effect, which is made in the *Nurses' Journal*, and an attempt made to "organise" our Nurses in country towns under the "patronage" of "doctors' daughters" and other unprofessional persons, both myself and my Nursing Staff will at once sever our connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association at head quarters, and thus nip the evil in the bud. I should recommend the same course to my fellow Matrons.

"ANOTHER COUNTRY MATRON."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am in entire sympathy with the views expressed by "A Country Matron," in your last issue. Surely a Matron's position is sufficiently difficult without the additional annoyance of what should be her great support, our own professional Association attempting to cause endless dissension by appointing as hon. secretaries to Local Centres unprofessional ladies of "busy minds." If the Association desires wholesale resignations upon the part of its country Matrons, let it attempt to carry into effect its suicidal suggestion.

Yours,

COUNTY HOSPITAL MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I should imagine there can be but one opinion concerning the unpractical suggestions put forth in the *Nurses' Journal* re unprofessional secretaries for Local Centres of the Royal British Nurses' Association; at the same time no doubt it would be efficacious to arouse more interest concerning professional status amongst country Nurses—they are, as a rule, very ignorant about matters outside the Institutions in which they work. But the persons

must recognise the fact that as a Nurses' Association it has succeeded, but as the marionette of an autocratic and apparently unsympathetic clique it has ceased to dance. From a professional and disciplinary point of view, no progress can be made excepting through the trained Matrons, and if the Matrons are to be ignored and insulted, the best type of Nurse will not join the Association. If the Association desires to make headway in the country, the Local Centres (and these should only be started in large centres) must be organised under the Matrons of the district, and not by the ladies of "busy mind." With many thanks for your invaluable support of discipline and professional etiquette,

I am, yours,

"NURSING ETIQUETTE."

THE MACCLESFIELD INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Many of the citizens of Macclesfield are sincerely grateful to you for drawing their attention to the reasons of the mismanagement of the Infirmary; as you say for months past a lengthy and contentious correspondence has taken place in the local press, and it is quite time some professional persons should express an opinion on the matter, and thus point out to the Governors (many of whom are most anxious that the patients should have well-trained and skilful Nurses) the reason of disorganisation and discord, with a view to reform. No person of education, even without a knowledge of Hospital administration, will contend for a moment that a thoroughly efficient Nurse can be trained in one year, nor that it can be other than most disadvantageous to the sick in our wards that they should be practised upon by a succession of ignorant persons, such as young paying pupils must be. This system of paying Probationers has numerous drawbacks (indeed it is difficult to see its advantages), and not the least of them is the rooted objection of a committee of men to believe in the incapability of those Probationers who pay a fee; the regular Probationer is often weighed by an experienced Matron, found wanting, and her services dispensed with, but the Matron has often to put up with the incumbrance in the wards of an equally inefficient person "because she has paid"—in fact, it is almost impossible to get rid of such persons until their term is at an end. Again it is easy to realise how detrimental their retention must be to the sick poor, who enter our Hospitals so that they may receive the most skilled medical treatment and Nursing. You will, I feel sure, be glad to know that your articles on the system of Nursing in this Infirmary are likely to awaken many to the necessity of demanding a higher standard.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours,

"A SUBSCRIBER."

ONE YEAR'S CERTIFICATE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I possess a certificate for one year's training, which states that I am a thoroughly efficient Nurse, and moreover a thoroughly respectable person; the persons who signed it—the Chairman and members of the medical staff of the Hospital—are quite as able to express an expert opinion on the one subject as the other. I have never seen the Chairman, nor worked for the members of the medical staff, who signed the certificate, and as it was not necessary to pass an examination before obtaining this reliable document, I want to know what guarantee it is to the public that "I am what I am." Altogether it appears to me that there is a delightful irresponsibility in the matter of certificates of training. One thing I am beginning to find out, and that is, the truth of your opinion that a one year's certificate is a snare and a delusion, and not worth the paper it is written on. Upon its guarantee I have applied for the post of Staff Nurse and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)