



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.

SISTERS' SITTING-ROOMS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—There is a question on which I should like to have the opinion of other Matrons, and I should feel greatly obliged if you could find space in your valuable paper, for a short discussion on the subject. The question is one that has been brought more particularly to my notice lately in connection with a building scheme which is under discussion by my Committee, *i.e.*, should the Sister of a Ward have a small room (not necessarily a bedroom) attached to the ward—or not? I have my own very decided opinion on the subject, but should be glad if you would allow me to reserve it until I have heard the views of some of my colleagues and of the Sisters themselves.

Yours faithfully,
M. MOLLETT, Matron.

Royal South Hants Infirmary,
Southampton.

[We hope that "Sisters" will join in this discussion.—ED.]

WOMEN LECTURERS' INSTITUTE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Having followed with much interest the correspondence which has appeared lately in the NURSING RECORD, I have been struck with the confirmation which these letters bear to the point raised publicly, I believe, for the first time, at the Liverpool Sanitary Congress in October, 1894, and brought forward again at the late Nottingham Conference of Women Workers.

"A Woman Worker" says, "she wants to see some action taken in the matter, and that some organised and concerted plan should be the outcome of all this dissatisfaction."

May I ask you therefore to give the necessary space in your valuable paper for the ventilation of a scheme for a Women Lecturers' Institute which is now receiving a great deal of consideration from people interested in the matter?

The main idea is to centralise lecturing into an Institute, in order to emphasise that, for the future, it must be looked upon as a distinct profession, apart from teaching. It will be under a Board of Management consisting of twenty-five members, representing:—

- (1) Societies employing Women Lecturers.
- (2) The Universities.
- (3) Other educational bodies, as Technical Boards, Polytechnics, &c.

Two examinations will be held annually, in January and July, under a Board of Examiners, who will have been previously appointed by the Board of Management. It is not proposed to interfere in any way with existing institutions for lecturers, but to offer a higher certificate based on a general qualification of the candidate than has hitherto been done. The candidate must already hold a University degree or certificate of some acknowledged Society relating to the subject on which they propose to lecture.

The Board of Examiners will give a certificate for qualifications based on the following points of good lecturing:—

- (1) Lecturer's General Method.
- (2) Thorough Knowledge of Subject.

- (3) Grouping of Subject.
- (4) Power of illustrating Subject.
- (5) Distinct Articulation.
- (6) Accent in Speech.
- (7) Power of Modulation of Voice.
- (8) General Personality.
- (9) Power of Dramatic Expression in Literary, and of vivid demonstration on Scientific, Subjects.
- (10) Sympathy and interest.

The fee for Examination will be £3 3s. for each candidate. The ultimate object will be to obtain a Royal Charter for the right of granting certificates.

I shall be happy to receive suggestions and to give any further information, as after three years' experience in directing the Women Lecturers' Association, I feel that this is a very burning question requiring careful and immediate consideration.

Yours truly,
EDITH BRADLEY,
Managing Director Women Lecturers'
Association.

4, Caroline Place, Mecklenburg Square, W.C.

[We sincerely wish success to this excellent scheme.—ED.]

THE QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—As a member of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, may I make a few remarks in the RECORD concerning the suggestion to alter the qualification for Registration, proposed at the last meeting of the Council, that no Nurse would be eligible for registration unless she had spent three years in a Hospital containing at least forty beds. Now, as an old member of the Association, and one who has taken a warm interest in its welfare (and also deeply regretted its downward march, and unprofessional tone for some time past), it appears to me that if after due consideration (and we seldom have time allowed us at a Council Meeting for necessary discussion) it is considered advisable to raise the standard for registration, the Council must act justly before it departs from the regulation now in force. The resolution as it stood would have disqualified upwards of 250 Hospitals, many of which are an immense benefit to the community, and also to the nursing profession, as from personal experience I am bound to say the Probationers in some small Hospitals gain a much better experience in special branches of practical Nursing than they do in the rush of a large Nursing School. If the principle is conceded that no Hospital containing less than forty beds may partly train Nurses for registration, every lying-in-Hospital in London, with the exception of Queen Charlotte's, will be disqualified, and where are our Nurses to obtain that most valuable experience—training in Maternity Nursing? Again, the Windsor Royal Infirmary, the Essex and Chelmsford Hospital, the Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth, the Lancaster Infirmary, the Rochdale Infirmary, and some of our very best special Hospitals in the country, would all be prevented admitting Probationers for supplementary training. This would be a very real and serious loss, not only to the Hospitals in question, but to Nurses generally, as training in special work must be obtained somewhere, and it cannot certainly be obtained in the general Hospitals. The majority of Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospitals, for instance, contain less than 40 beds.

The Council was therefore acting with discretion in refusing to accept without consideration the Resolution proposed by the Executive Committee, and it is to be hoped that when the question is again brought before the Council, that some scheme will be at the same time suggested whereby wholesale injury will not be inflicted upon those institutions which contain less than 40 beds.

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, R.B.N.A.

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