

of opinion that they are unadvisable, because it appears to me that a Sister should spend the time she is *on duty* in the Ward, that when she is off duty she is better entirely away from the worries and atmosphere of the Ward. I think also no Nurse has passed through her training without on occasion seeing these rooms misused, therefore they are better not provided. Much time which ought to be devoted to superintending the patients and the junior Nurses' work in the Ward is spent by Sisters in their sitting room; then they are also temptations for gossip and tea parties with the junior members of the medical staff, and surely this leads to much lack of discipline; as when Sister is entertaining the house surgeon in her own room, the staff Nurse will think there is no harm in inviting the dressers to tea in the kitchen, and all this familiarity leads to much that is undesirable in the tone of the Ward. I am strongly of opinion that the work is more efficiently supervised, the Probationers better taught, and the discipline of the Ward maintained at a higher level where the Sister's sitting room does not exist.

Yours truly,  
GRACE KERR (Sister).

#### QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Not being a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association I had not heard of the suggestion by that body to refuse to register Nurses who had spent any part of their three years' training in a hospital containing less than forty beds, and until I read in your last week's issue the letter signed "An Old Member," my attention had not been drawn to the subject. This correspondent draws the attention of your readers to the fact that should such a rule be enforced the majority of Lying-in Hospitals will be disqualified from participating in the training of Maternity Nurses, that is unless after spending three years in a general hospital they enter the Lying-in Hospitals for supplementary training. I feel sure if such a rule is made absolute, the majority of Lying-in Hospitals will not be able to get pupil-nurses, as few can afford to pay our fees after spending three years elsewhere. But if, as another correspondent signing "A Three Years' Certificate" suggests, some plan of co-operation could be arranged between the Matrons of the General and Lying-in Hospitals, the difficulty might be overcome, but the limit of forty beds for training in special branches of nursing would prove disastrous to our interests, and I sincerely hope the Committee of the Royal British Nurses Association will pause before inaugurating so unpractical a regulation. Nursing education must not be decided without considering the interests of all, including the public as well as the Nurses, and hasty legislation must inevitably be repented of at leisure. Thanking you for your courtesy in always giving space for the expression of both sides of a question, and in so doing making the NURSING RECORD truly the representative organ of the Nursing profession,

I am, Madam,  
Yours truly,

"A MATRON OF A LYING-IN HOSPITAL."

[We thank our correspondent for her kind expression of opinion, and assure her that, so long as we conduct this journal, it shall be just to all.—ED.]

"CHRISTMAS."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I do not think it is too much to say that Hospital Sisters and Nurses begin to look forward to Christmas with something like dread; the extra strain, both on mind, body and purse which Ward festivities entail, is indeed becoming something of a terror to the Nursing staff. Decorations, presents, tea parties—every nerve must be strained to obtain the desired end, and yet the usual responsibilities and anxiety are not lessened. Your timely suggestion which appeared in your last number, will, I feel, be acted

upon by many. I have already set my friends to work, and hope upon the return of my six *sacks* that I shall find prepared an ample supply of gifts for all my patients. With thanks to "A Sympathiser with Hospital Festivities,"—which I am not,

I remain,  
"A SISTER OF FIFTY-THREE BEDS."

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The NURSING RECORD is indeed the "guide, philosopher and friend" of the Nurses, and is always on the alert to foresee and call attention to any methods of progress, or to give suggestions to Nurses for their benefit. When I took up private nursing, acting on a paragraph in the RECORD as to the advantages to a private Nurse of speaking at least one foreign tongue, I attended some classes at the Polytechnic on conversational French, and was surprised to find how quickly I got on. I made it a habit to always have a French book—easy at first and harder later—on hand, which I could easily read while in the room of my patient. I would strongly recommend Nurses to learn in the conversational method. We have not time or energy to go into the classics of a language, or to regard it from a philological point of view. What we need is the conversation, and to be able to make ourselves "understood of the people" if we nurse foreign patients, or if we accompany invalids abroad. I confess I should have been much daunted by my task had I been put to "exercises" for six months or so, and been confronted with all the intricacies of French grammar.

Now that I can speak French very fairly, I am going to tackle the complexities of the German tongue. But I have no fear, as I shall learn it "conversationally," and this, after my experience of learning French so, has no terrors for me.

In conclusion, I would earnestly recommend Nurses to go in for this self-improvement. In every part of the country there are Technical Schools, Continuation Classes, &c., and the cost is so very small that no Nurse can plead poverty as an excuse. And the small outlay in these classes is returned threefold by increased efficiency, by the extra demand for one's services, and frequently by the additional salary paid to Nurses who can speak French and German.

Sincerely yours,  
A WOULD-BE LINGUIST.

#### SALARIES OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—These two advertisements appeared as printed in the columns of the *Daily Telegraph* of Monday, Oct. 28th, 1895.

**VESTRY of SAINT PANCRAS.**—Appointment of Sanitary Inspectors.—The Vestry of Saint Pancras, being about to appoint two SANITARY INSPECTORS for the parish, the Health Committee is prepared to receive APPLICATIONS for the office. The salary of each inspector will commence at £120 per annum, payable monthly, with an annual increment of £10, to a maximum of £150.

Here we have a moderate salary offered for what is even to men, very hard work.

Turning now to an advertisement for a Women Inspector, we read:

**VESTRY of SAINT PANCRAS.**—Appointment of Female Sanitary Inspector.—The Vestry of Saint Pancras, being about to appoint a FEMALE SANITARY INSPECTOR for the parish, the Health Committee is prepared to receive applications for the office. The salary will commence at £80 per annum, payable monthly, with an annual increment of £5 to a maximum of £100.

Can anyone say why the Vestry of St. Pancras rate the value of a woman's work at two-thirds of that of a man, while its increasing value is reckoned at one half? Are women *cheaper* than men, or their services less valuable?

TRADES UNIONIST.

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