

any knowledge of or little relation to the domestic management. In few is there sufficient room for the decent housing of the Nursing and domestic staff, and the dear old-fashioned useful cupboard is a thing of the past. Why is this? Surely it is now a recognised fact that the Matron should be consulted concerning domestic details, and that she is more likely to know what accommodation is necessary for the efficient working of the Hospital than the gentleman who draws the plans and whose wife never permits him to put his nose inside her domestic offices. Anyway, Matrons, you know it is a fact that thoroughly efficient Sisters will not and cannot work for any length of time as Superintendent Nurses of wards, without the rest which is absolutely necessary to health, and which they can only obtain in the privacy of their own rooms.

Yours,  
SISTER L.—

#### QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The letter of "Registered Nurse" published in your last week's issue touches a point of great importance, and is one which will have to be dealt with sooner or later; the sooner for choice—and that is the *quality*, not quantity of training required by the average Nurse. I have lately been registered after three years' training and certification in a small general Hospital, and in the hope of joining the Registered Nurses' Society, and it is in no spirit of contention that I desire to place my case before the readers of the RECORD, but because I recognise the justice of the reasons which were given me, for not admitting me at present a Member of the Society. My case is almost analogous to that of "A Registered Nurse." I left the Hospital after three years' work with a fair knowledge of the Nursing of general, medical, and surgical cases, but in answers to kindly, but searching questions my ignorance was exposed.

"Can you sterilize dressings?"—"No."

"Have you ever prepared the operating theatre?"—"No."

"Have you had instruction in the Nursing of cases of gynaecology?"—"No."

"You cannot pass the female catheter without uncovering the patient?"—"No."

"Can you place a vaginal plug?"—"No."

"Can you pass the rectal tube?"—"I have never seen one."

"Have you had any experience of ophthalmic work?"—"No."

"Or fever work?"—"No."

"Any experience in the Weir-Mitchell treatment?"—"No."

"Do you know anything of sick dietary, can you sterilise milk, or peptonise food, or make whey?"—"No."

"Are you then a thoroughly trained Nurse?"—"I am afraid not."

"You wish to be efficient?"—"Yes."

"Well, I should advise you to go to a Gynaecological Hospital for six months, and also get some practical experience in the Nursing of fevers, and six months' experience of Nursing better-class patients in a home Hospital. You may then begin private Nursing with a clear conscience."

I have already begun this course of supplementary training, and if all's well shall hope to become a Member of the Registered Nurses' Society in the future. I would therefore join "Registered Nurse" in the hope that the next step in advance which the Royal British Nurses' Association will take is to define the quality, as well as term of training necessary for a Nurse, so that before entering a Nursing School we should know what it is right that we should learn, before offering ourselves for membership.

Yours faithfully,  
"ANOTHER REGISTERED NURSE."

[We may add that many Nurses trained in general Nursing are now further qualifying themselves for private Nursing, by gaining further experience in Nursing special diseases, with the hope of joining the R. N. S. in the future.—ED.]

#### "CHERCHEZ LE SANGE."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I should like to make a few remarks on the following little paragraph culled from one of your contemporaries.

"Imitation is the sincerest flattery, and we are glad to hear that the Editor of THE NURSING RECORD is following our example by announcing that she will hold an exhibition of nursing appliances next summer. We hope this exhibition will open in time to help us with our second exhibition, which we announced last month, as many valuable hints are always to be obtained from any collection of nursing appliances."

I have always been under the impression that it was the present Editor of the NURSING RECORD, who, as President of the Nursing Section in connection with the British Royal Commission, organised the Nursing Exhibition at Chicago in 1893, and received the following acknowledgment of her pioneer work from my foreign coadjutors—"Medal and Diploma (highest award), for collective scientific exhibit, general excellence and advanced Nursing methods."

It was this lady also who, in the spring of 1894, in an official report to the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, suggested the advisability of that body instituting "a permanent exhibition of all Nursing and kindred appliances, for the information of members." It is sincerely to be regretted that this suggestion, although publicly sanctioned by the General Council, was never carried out.

That the Editor of your contemporary was wise enough to attempt to carry out the idea *eighteen months later*, was proved by the little show at the Midwives' Institute held in October last, but that she should attempt to mislead her readers by proclaiming herself the originator of the idea is both futile and incorrect.

That this lady intends to carry on the system of profiting by the ingenuity of others is quite candidly expressed, in the hope that the Nursing Exhibition which you are now organising will be open in time to be of use to her in her future efforts. I saw her exhibition and can assure her she has much to learn.

Hoping, Madam, you will find space for this little protest against "cuckoos" in general,

I am, sincerely yours,

ANNESLEY KENEALY.

Late Judge of Awards at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.

[We have previously expressed our opinion of the educational value to Nurses of a *complete* Exhibition of Nursing Appliances, and for that reason we shall, with the help of some of our valued colleagues, hope to make the London Exhibition of 1896 a worthy successor to that organised by us at Chicago in 1893.—ED.]

Note.—The Editor regrets to be compelled to hold over so many letters; those of Miss Grace A. Hurditch and "Cottage Hospital Matron" will appear without fail next week.

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