



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.

"LIVE AND LET LIVE."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly insert and forward at your earliest opportunity, to the following ladies and others controlling the Nursing world—Miss Wilson, Miss Gibson, Miss Robinson, Miss Twining, &c., and yourself—this appeal, for their timely consideration: That the *standard of age* for workhouse and other Nursing employment be abolished, and that of *Physical and Mental* fitness be substituted.

It is well known that the former, like the three years' training system, is completely shutting out numbers of highly qualified and deserving Nurses from being able to procure a situation, or earn a livelihood at all, and is simply an outrageous injustice, and this too when they are at their best from experience and stability—which all must acknowledge is a great advantage and value. If twenty-two years' service deserves, as it should do, honour, in Sister Superintendent J. A. Gray, why have not other deserving Nurses equal rights? Give us a chance to earn our bread and butter! Patients and Doctors require "Nurses," not medical students. "Medical women are all right in their own sphere."

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
"IDA."

[We are of opinion that the the letter signed "Ida," the *nom de plume* of a lady who has been in Nursing works since 1878, and who has filled successively the positions of Midwife, Nurse, and Matron with success, touches on a most important question. Our sympathy for those Nurses who find themselves in keen competition with a younger generation of Nurses is profound, but the inevitable results of evolution in Nursing—the direct outcome of the rapid progress effected of late years in medical and surgical science provide a very difficult problem to solve.

The great body of trained Nurses who have held aloof from the Royal British Nurses' Association—in its efforts to effect justifiable reforms—have themselves to blame very largely that the great abuse of sweating Probationers by Hospital authorities and others, brings them into keen competition in the open market with very inexperienced Nurses. If all the Probationers sent out by Hospitals to augment the funds of the institution were in the wards for three or four years learning their work, the older Nurses would not find themselves elbowed out of practice as they are to-day. The only remedy for this unjust and really fraudulent competition is Registration by the State after thorough training. The Nurses have the remedy in their own hands, and had they been inspired in the past with a deeper sense of their responsibility to the public and their profession, they would not to-day find themselves in the cruel position in which they stand.

We are informed that at least 500 Nurses with less than two years' experience are competing in London alone with the experienced Nurse. This is a subject worthy of discussion.—ED.]

COMPARING NOTES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent "F. H." is placed in the same dilemma I once was with a somewhat determined old lady. However, I managed to overcome her objection to knowingly taking aperients by inducing her to take a "sweet" Tamar Indien which can be obtained of any chemist.

Yours truly,
LOUISA SYMONDS.

Cannes.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In answer to the dilemma in which "F. H." finds herself of not being able to administer an aperient to a nervous patient who has a rooted prejudice against such medicines, the answer to the difficulty appears to me to be simple. Most of the large manufacturing chemists supply some aperient in the form of sweetmeats—some of these being really delicious. If "F. H." will put some in a fancy sweetmeat box, produce it from her pocket and appear to take one herself (she can, if she choose, place a chocolate for *herself* among the number) and then offer one to her patient, she will almost certainly disarm suspicion, and succeed in getting her patient to take—under the guise of a "goody"—the desired aperient.

Ought I to sign myself
THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—It is certainly very valuable for Nurses to "Compare Notes" on professional subjects, and I have long thought that we Nurses are not nearly helpful enough to one another. In our Nursing life we all of us invent some little invalid device, we come across most valuable inventions of doctors, and from them also we get all sorts of little "tips" and wrinkles which we ought not to keep to ourselves. If we were only to communicate these hints to the RECORD as doctors do to the *British Medical Journal*, we should enormously advance professionalism and *esprit de corps*. Now with regard to the practical advice asked by "F. H.," I would like to suggest that abdominal massage should be tried, if the medical man in charge will give his permission. My experience with nervous and irritable patients has been that massage is often most soothing and restful to them. A small cup of black coffee given about an hour before breakfast is also very helpful.

Sincerely yours,
A PRIVATE NURSE.

THE NURSES' BEER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The letter in your last issue touching on this question prompts me to address you, as I feel somewhat strongly on the subject. I cannot refrain from stating that it is a pity that Nurses—especially those working in private houses—make such a point of their beer, or rather, bottled stout. It cannot be in the least necessary for Nurses to keep up the antiquated custom of drinking malt liquors twice daily, and although I do not go so far as to say it is "immoral," I do consider it very "unwise," and it is very

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