

for one or two years are much to blame for the present condition of things; why should not a four years' term be insisted upon? St. Bartholomew's has instituted an excellent example in this matter.

PRIVATE NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The question of an "Age Standard" for Nurses is one which the majority of your correspondents seem to condemn; and yet, is it or is it not true that both doctors and patients will have comparatively young Nurses—and by young I mean women from 25 to 35 for choice; and if it is a fact that they prefer young Nurses, what I want to know is, why do they do so? The only class of persons who really seem to appreciate the older Nurses are wives. I have no desire to express an opinion on this important subject, but merely seek for information.

Yours, &c.,  
MEDICUS.

#### THE NURSE'S BEER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad of an opportunity of joining in the protest entered by "One-Glass-of-Beer-a-Day Nurse" against the constant criticism offered to Nurses, and against such interference with their right of freedom of action, as to say what they shall or shall not drink. We are a band of professional women standing before the public as an independent body; and that public has no more right to pry into our personal habits of life—so long as we conform to the accepted standard of morality—than it has to lay down the law as to what dress lawyers shall wear, the beverages suitable to the Church, or the kind of overcoat wherewith it would be correct to clothe the medical profession!

Does it ever occur to a patient to inquire whether her medical adviser takes one or two glasses of sherry with his luncheon? Does she care whether he smokes or goes to church? Of course not. So long as he writes accurate prescriptions, gives good advice on diet, and "cures" her, she asks no more. It is enough that he has done the work for which she engaged his services. And it must be the same for the Nurse. I am considered an excellent Nurse. I have had a good training, and never neglect the smallest trifle which can conduce to a patient's comfort and welfare. But I am *not* going to pose as a living sermon, or a model standard, or a pattern woman. I take wine with my meals—when it is offered to me. I do *not* vigorously smooth out the crinkles and waves which Nature has put into my hair. I do *not* pretend to be goody-goody, or a ministering angel who is content to take a small salary for the sake of "good works." On the contrary, I take the highest salary I can get, and I manage to have a very pleasant life. I do my duty thoroughly, and am not selfish. But I lay no claim to sainthood, and I have no desire to be spoken of as a "martyr to my work." I would much prefer to have written on my tombstone, "She was a woman of high professional ambitions; she always upheld the standard of Nursing, and did what she could to raise the dignity and honour of her calling." To my mind that would suggest a much more honourable career than would the tribute "She never, never touched a glass of beer."

Yours sincerely,

ONE WHO FOLLOWS HER OWN STANDARD OF DIGNITY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—As a trained Nurse and a total abstainer, I very much object to the inference which might be drawn from a letter in your last issue, signed "Maria Masters," namely, that all private Nurses drink beer. To judge from the letter in question the public might be led to imagine that like the farm labourer, the private Nurse, stopped work at certain hours of the day "to swallow the foaming bitter."

That some Nurses do indulge in "this coarse and heady liquid" is sincerely to be deprecated, and I quite agree that it would be well if malt liquor was not provided in our Training Schools, except as medicine upon the order of the medical man. But my point is, by far the greater number of Nurses, both in Hospitals and in private houses, *do not take beer*, and I think "Maria Masters" has been very unfortunate in the Nurses with whom she has come in contact.

Yours,  
BLUE RIBBON.

#### DUTIES ALLOTTED TO PUPILS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The above subject discussed in your correspondence column would, I feel sure, prove of great interest.

As things now exist, the duties assigned to pupils vary from those of "Upper Wardmaid" to that of "quasi Sister." I ask if a happy medium is not to be found in their partaking of the duties of a first year's Pro.?

Yours truly,  
ENQUIRER.

### Comments and Replies.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE EDITOR begs to thank those amongst her readers who have so kindly sent her greetings and good wishes for the New Year, and all of which she most cordially reciprocates. She would take this opportunity of expressing the pleasure it has given her to receive so many tokens of appreciation of the work the NURSING RECORD aims at doing. And she would ask all those Nurses who are at one with her in her aim to raise the dignity of the Nursing profession, and to gain for it the status it deserves, to show their *practical* sympathy with the NURSING RECORD by bringing it before the notice of their friends. If each Nurse who values the paper and believes in its programme were to gain even one new subscriber, our sphere of influence would be very much widened; and so the Editor would ask her readers to include such a determination to help forward the work of the NURSING RECORD among their New Year "good resolutions."

*Nurse Shaw, Bournemouth.*—Many thanks for your interesting letter. You will indeed have a delightful journey with your patient, although, as you say, it is always an anxiety to go abroad with an invalid whose appetite and digestion are so bad. With regard to your enquiry, we should strongly recommend you to lay in a stock of Brand's beef essence, than which nothing can be more useful on board ship and when travelling. All Nurses taking patients abroad should be most careful to invest in a stock of invalid food preparations, and a visit to Messrs. Brand will ensure the purchases being of the very best quality obtainable.

*Would-be Probationer.*—We are constantly consulted by young women like yourself who have not reached the age for entering Hospital, and who are anxious for us to decide for them how they shall spend the "waiting time." You have two years before you. Spend one in learning domestic economy. Help your mother in the housekeeping for six months, then persuade her to let you do it *entirely* for the remaining six months. Thoroughly inquire into the mysteries of the laundry. Learn to classify and renovate the household linen. Try and grasp the subject of household stores. Learn the beauty of method and orderliness. Get into the habit of keeping accounts in a systematic way. Above all things, appreciate the value of personal tidiness and precision in your work. At the end of the year you will be such a treasure to your mother that she will hardly be persuaded to allow you to enter Hospital. For the answer

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)