

do not know how this is to be remedied except by the observation of the golden rule, "Do as you would be done by." When this rule is universally followed we shall hear no more the wail of the snubbed Probationer.

I am,  
Dear madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED.

## LOYALTY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—“Esther Grey” presents a problem in nursing characteristics which is as interesting as it is true, but for which the answer is not far to seek. She contrasts the average Nurse's power of assertion when on duty, and her lack of professional interest when off duty. There seems to me, as a Nurse of long experience, no anomaly in this matter as she suggests.

A Nurse is trained on the theory that self-abnegation is the basis of her work, and to be an ideal Nurse there is no doubt that she must cultivate the virtue of self-sacrifice. During her Hospital training she has merely to obey intelligently. Is such a creed and training consistent with a personal interest in public affairs—or indeed can it develop a spirit conducive to the consideration of personal and professional matters? It is not possible. We must wait for the new curriculum of training and education for Nurses before we can expect them to be animated by public abstract questions, which are not included in the duties for which they are paid. At present a private Nurse receives her fee for her practical skill, devotion to her patient, and obedience to her medical officer; and her idea of professional success merely revolves around her own personal individuality. It is identically the same circumscribed sphere in which the excellent average housewife revolves. Patients die from the bad nursing of ignorant and unskilled Nurses; what is that to the skilled, devoted obedient Nurse—she is not her “sister's keeper.” Other women's homes are desolate, and their children starved—is that the fault of the good, devoted, hard-working average housewife? Not according to the average woman's conscience.

Why fall foul of the trained Nurse because she is the result of a narrow and circumscribed system of education? She acts according to her lights. Granted she is in the aggregate “a poor spiritless thing,” she is much on a par with the average specimen of her sex. It will take generations to evolve the “free woman” from the slave.

Yours,  
JUSTITIA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—A little episode bearing on the question of “Hospital Loyalty” has come under my personal observation during the past week, and throws an interesting light on the question.

A friend of mine intended to compete for the Dolls in Uniform Prize, which is being offered in the NURSING RECORD in connection with the Nursing Exhibition. Last week a fellow Nurse trained in the same Institution called upon her, and told her that “the

Matron hoped she would not compete for the prize, as she did not intend to take part in the Exhibition, and she should consider it *personally disloyal* if the said Nurse sent the dolls to the Exhibition!”

My poor friend has not yet got her Certificate, so the dolls will not be sent.

I hope you will find space for this letter.

Yours faithfully,  
UNTRAINED.

[The opening of the Nursing Exhibition will still take place at 2.30 p.m. on the 1st of June!—ED.]

## WOMAN'S WORK.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—At last the important question of Hospital laundry work has been touched upon; but I fear we shall flounder on a great many years in the present style, before any reform is made. The whole question is one of Trained and Technical Education, and until every branch of work establishes definite Training Schools, with power to grant certificates of competency, the whole department of woman's work will be in a hopelessly unsatisfactory condition. I have never yet, in England, come across a competent laundress, either in or out of Hospital, and I do not believe there are such things! Now it is a very different thing in America. During my Hospital life there my caps and aprons were an ideal picture of spotless snowy white, dainty perfection. Such goffers and frills of architectural perfection I shall never hope to see again. And the reason is plain. *The laundresses were all foreigners*, as they are nearly throughout the United States. And the easy solution for us in England is to employ foreigners. This will be called unpatriotic, and will be severely condemned and criticised; but my answer must ever be, if foreigners do their work best they must survive, and foreigners are undoubtedly more skilful and artistic. The average English working woman just “muddles along” in her work, because she takes no artistic pride in the perfection of her occupation. She regards it, not as a fine art, but as an unpleasant necessity.

The French, Norwegian and German laundresses, have as much artistic pride in frills and tuckers and clear starching, as have the R.A.'s in their creations on canvas. And it is just this factor which makes all the difference between the foreigner and the Britisher. We English are so commercial, and we are so lost in the contemplation of the money our trade will bring us, that we lose the artistic conception of the beauty of work well done.

We hear a good deal about Technical Education, but we see very little practical result. The experiment has not long been tried, but we ought very soon to see some improvement in our domestic service, which at the present time is as unsatisfactory as it well could be.

Truly yours,  
A TRAVELLED WOMAN.

[We have forwarded our correspondent the address of a most skilled laundress of British parentage.—ED.]

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