

principles have been publicly denied, it is absolutely useless. Personally, I dislike philanthropy, and never desired to receive personal benefits from the Association, but the dishonourable habit of incurring debt, of which our officials make so light, is a disastrous example to working women, and, no doubt, a keen disappointment to those members who need pecuniary help and are denied. That our annual expenditure should amount to nearly £1,500 is monstrous, as absolutely nothing, from a professional sense, has been accomplished during the last year. We hard-worked Nurses cannot imagine what the Secretaries and clerks can have to do. I am ready and willing to join any Society which has for its definite object, the Registration of Trained Nurses by Act of Parliament. But let us bar all philanthropic schemes. We have got the Pension Fund and the Home of Rest at Brighton.

Yours,
LEGAL STATUS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I feel the thanks of every thinking Nurse are due to "Excelsior" for her letter in the RECORD of September 26th, for she has put an interesting case before us in an interesting way, and brought out several points which your readers should find pleasure and profit in discussing.

The first criticism I offered on the letter was this, "Why, 'Excelsior' is arguing about the *exceptional* person, and I must acknowledge she argues very well. But what about the average and the majority?"

I firmly believe that exceptional people who are always in a small minority, can, to a certain extent, be a law unto themselves. But laws and regulations are made for the average and the majority. I can quite believe that a woman of "Excelsior's" ability would acquire as much in twenty months' training as an average woman might, perhaps, in three years. But how are we to separate the chaff from the grain unless it pass through the conventional mill? How can we differentiate between the Excelsiors and the Inferiors unless we have some definite and universal standard to judge them by? Our friend's arguments on some points are more superficial and less logical than might at first appear. She sets down as a premise because *she* has not been trained, as we understand the term—and yet is a good Nurse—that the circumstance of being untrained is a factor in her success. Now, that is not sound reasoning. I would rather put it thus: considering how successful she is without training, what might she not have been if she had been through the proper course?

Sincerely yours,
A SUCCESSFUL "TRAINED" NURSE.

PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM.

To the Editor of The "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In every Hospital there are numbers of mouths to feed, and as many of the owners of those mouths are ill and weak, it is particularly necessary that their food should be good and nourishing. Therefore it ought be of great interest to the Matrons in large Hospitals to know about the British Produce Supply Association lately opened in Long Acre.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Winchelsea, who is indefatigable in his endeavours to help the British

farmer, has come to the conclusion that the most satisfactory solution of the question of agricultural depression is to be found in a *Store* which will bring together the producer and the consumer. As it is, the farmers who make a noble effort to utilise their land, to multiply their flocks, and to keep their children under their own roof, have always complained of the difficulty of getting rid of their supplies without being extortionately sweated by the middlemen.

All this is done away with by the opening of the British Produce Supply Association. Here hampers will be received from the country, and, provided the things themselves are good, and that they arrive in good condition, they will be certain of a ready sale, and a fair profit.

Cheapness is not the aim of the Association. Its object is to ensure excellence of quality, and to guarantee that everything sold within its walls is of British make.

Beef, mutton, veal, poultry, eggs, butter, cheese, rabbits, or game, are all to be found upon the counters; and so beautifully is the place got up that the marble slabs and general air of coolness and cleanliness, coupled with the civility of the attendants, makes it a pleasure to shop, instead of, as it is in many of our large Stores, a heated, stuffy struggle to acquire what one wants.

The Secretary, Mr. Broomhall, is willing to give any information, or to submit contracts for Hospitals, clubs, and other large Institutions, and carts will call daily for orders round the various districts of London.

Here is a practical instance where the British housewives can aid the agriculturist, and as it is the women who hold the purse strings of England, it is they who can do more to alleviate distress than many of them are aware of. Not only the Matrons in Hospitals, but the private Nurses in our own homes, have power to exert a good or bad influence in a marked degree, and surely this is an opportunity where every woman with a spark of patriotism in her composition must feel it incumbent upon her to try and keep some of the fourteen million sterling in our own country paid out yearly for dairy products alone, to say nothing of the enormous sums that go abroad for beef, mutton, or bacon.

Anyway, we can give Lord Winchelsea's scheme a trial, not forgetting that it is only a few days old, and therefore many difficulties have to be contended with; but having given it a trial, if we find that we can get good genuine food at a fair price, surely it beholds us to buy such British products in preference to foreign goods.

ETHEL B. TWEEDIE,
(Mrs. Alec Tweedie.)

Notice to Correspondents.

THE Editor thanks those correspondents who have communicated with her concerning the proceedings at the recent General Council Meeting. They will observe in another column that a Special Meeting has been called to rectify the irregularity then committed. This does not, however, alter the seriousness of the fact that the Meeting persisted in a course of action which contravened the Charter.

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