

ject involves a question of political economy, namely, that of supply and demand. Do the public desire coloured nurses? If so, these nurses undoubtedly will exist, and it remains for the leaders of the nursing profession to recognise this fact, and to lay down rules for their training upon a wise basis. The question also arises as to whether negroes have the capacity for responding to training. Having had some experience in training Africans in an English Hospital in the tropics, I may state it as my own opinion that they undoubtedly have. I have had the further experience of having had for a night nurse, when very ill myself, an African woman who was trained in the Kama Hospital at Bombay, and I doubt if any English nurse would have been more attentive or more skilful.

I also found that for the male wards it answered best to train "boys" as nurses, and they certainly possess the requisite qualifications. The idea is contrary to our English prejudices, but it works well in practice. This is so signally the case in some instances that the doctor of the hospital was known to say on one occasion that he would rather have "Yohanna" than three English nurses. This statement must be accepted remembering that it was made by one who was devoted to Africans, and who was therefore keenly appreciative of all their good points. I do not think, either, that this particular African would have been so capable if English nurses had not taken an infinity of pains in teaching him, but the story proves my point that African boys (a boy being taken to mean a man of any age) can and do respond to training.

Africans as nurses prove themselves quiet and gentle, and possessed of a nicety of touch which is an acquired and not a natural gift with many English nurses. When it is remembered that most of these Africans are the first generation of free people after hundreds of years of slavery, the qualifications they possess are a constant source of surprise to one. I very much doubt if we were just emerging from barbarism if we should possess nearly so many. Miss Stewart's point of view seemed rather to be that coloured races should not be eligible for the nursing ranks, but surely the acceptance for training should depend, not upon the colour of a person's skin, but upon her capacity for performing the duties required of her. Whether this training should be given in the wards of a hospital where white people are nursed is another question, but where there is a large negro population there must of necessity be sick negroes; therefore in the establishment of a hospital for these the training ground would be ready to hand. I believe that in the European Hospital at Bombay it has been found by experience that the Eurasians who are trained there are more suitable, both as hospital nurses and for private work, than nurses who are brought out from England.

It would be very interesting if others who have had experience in the nursing or training of coloured races would express their views in the columns of the NURSING RECORD. There must be many whose opinion would be most valuable on the subject, and many also who recognise that as the exodus of English nurses to out of the way countries cannot take place to any great extent, both for climatic and other reasons, it is very desirable that the natives of those countries should be taught to nurse their sick efficiently.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

UNGUJA.

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MISS WINGFIELD.

THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS NURSES.

General Hospital,
Tunbridge Wells.

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to yours of the 12th inst., I write to say that I consider the admission of asylum attendants (unless they have also been trained in a recognised general hospital for three years) to the Register of Trained Nurses as unwise, and likely to be detrimental to the best interests of nurses who have received the three years' training in their profession, and are qualified to act as nurses to the sick.

I have pleasure in signing the resolution enclosed.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

FLORENCE L. HAY-FORBES, Matron,
M.R.B.N.A., & Member of the Matrons' Council.

112, Barry Road,
East Dulwich.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to enclose the protest against the admission of asylum attendants to membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association, as, although I greatly admire, and have a reverence for a band of women who devote themselves to such a noble work as the care of mad people, still, I do not think there should be any question about their names being placed on our register, which is for *hospital-trained* nurses.

I am, yours faithfully,

AMY LANG, M.R.B.N.A.
Late Matron Greek Hospital, Alexandria.

Cottage Hospital,
Sidcup.

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to your letter of the 12th, I beg to state that I decidedly object to the asylum attendants being placed on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I am a registered nurse, and one of the oldest members, as I joined the first year the Association was started. If this change is made, it will at once cease to be a *trained* Nurses' Association. I think the matter should be laid before our Royal President.

Yours truly,

ALICE MORTON,
Matron.

50, Bedford Row,
DEAR MADAM,—Most certainly I agree with you in trying to prevent the admission of any but fully-trained persons on to the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association. It seems to me such a pity that this Association, which started with such a high ideal, should fall so very far short.

I have tried to see for myself where the faults lie, and have come to the conclusion that most of us are to blame. The majority of members take no interest whatever in the Association, and I have known many throw their voting-papers on the fire without taking the trouble to read them. People have no right to belong to any society without taking their share of its responsibilities.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

MARGARET RODGERS,
M.R.B.N.A.

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