

public are one,—and we can only hope that ladies of influence will unite with trained nurses to prevent the depreciation of the standard for Registration by the Royal British Nurses' Association. It would be a fatal step, and most unjust towards those members of the public who in sickness rely upon the guarantee of the Register of Trained Nurses.—ED.]

#### THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your notice upon "Lecturers à la Mode" in this week's NURSING RECORD draws attention to a very real evil, namely, the fact that there are persons going about the country, lecturing upon nursing, and taking money from the credulous public who come to listen to them, who have never had a day's training, and who know absolutely nothing of the subject which they profess to teach. Trained nurses are well aware that this is the case, and resent being caricatured by these persons, as they also resent the imposition upon the public, for it is veritably a case of the "blind leading the blind."

An agreeable manner, a good deal of assurance, and a few shibboleths, with perhaps a little information picked up from the trained nurses whom they never hesitate to depreciate, form the entire stock in trade of many of these ladies. It seems to me that any society which sends out persons to lecture for it, should announce their qualifications for the work they undertake, otherwise it lays itself open to the suspicion that it is taking money under false pretences.

I am, dear madam,

Yours obediently,  
ANTI-HUMBUG.

#### HONOURABLE DEALING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In your article last week on *Instone v. Bolland* you seem to think that it is unfair to nurses who have been trained by an institution to make them enter into an agreement not to nurse within a given radius of the institution. May I point out in your columns, therefore, that if this were not done many country institutions would cease to exist altogether. It must be remembered that rules are not made for the people who keep them, but for those who break them. It would not be necessary to enter into a compact with an honourable woman, that having received her training from a given institution and attended the patients who send to it for nurses, that she should refrain from setting up on her own account within a few doors of the institution, and from notifying to the doctors and patients with whom she had become acquainted, through the institution, that she was open to take cases. I say that no honourable woman would do this, but it is necessary to protect the interests of the institution from the dishonourable ones. Half a dozen women of this description could absorb, or so materially damage as to practically ruin, the connection which an institution had carefully worked up. Is this fair? Is it not a matter of common justice that there should be some redress in such a case? I put it to your readers, is not the head of an institution at liberty to make such terms with nurses as seem good to her when they enter its service, and are not the nurses, having agreed to these terms, in honour bound to observe them? I feel sure

that with the justice, which is always a conspicuous feature of the NURSING RECORD, you will allow the opposite point of view to that which you have advocated, a fair hearing in your columns.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours obediently,  
FAIR PLAY.

[Those who remember the methods employed in the formation of the Chartered Nurses' Society and the means adopted by its Committee and members to absorb the *clientèle* obtained by the Registered Nurses' Society, will probably feel much sympathy with our correspondent. Dishonourable dealings invariably inspire distrust, and perhaps do not even bring in the cash equivalent for which presumably the perpetrators hoped when they sold their self-respect.—ED.]

#### LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MISS WINGFIELD.

##### THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS NURSES.

1, Elm Terrace,  
Honiton, Devon.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for your letter, also the Resolution which I enclosed signed.

I have always been lenient in my judgment of the management of the Association, and am truly sorry this step (the calling of an indignation meeting) is necessary to save our reputation.

I, as a member of the Association, sincerely thank you for your great help in bringing forward this Resolution, and trust you will be successful in overthrowing "a suggestion," which would be very injurious to trained nurses and the public.

I trust you will pardon me if I beg you not to remove your name from the Register. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (our champion) has over and over again advised the nurses to stick to the Association, and after all it is OUR Association, and I hope nothing will scare our leaders, for we cannot spare them.

Also to achieve you know we must persevere.

Again thanking you and wishing you success,

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,  
MARTHA BARNES.

36, Nottingham Place, London.

DEAR MADAM,—I resent most strongly the action of the honorary officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association in the attempt they are making to place asylum attendants on the Register of Trained Nurses. It has given me much pleasure to sign the Resolution sent to me, and I shall do all in my power (if I am in or near London) to attend the meeting at St. Martin's Town Hall, on January 7th, 1897.

I wish all the nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association would awake to the danger threatening them as a profession, and attend the meeting also.

Allow me to thank you most sincerely for the trouble you are taking in organising a public meeting to protest against such a scheme. I hope you will meet with the greatest success.

Yours truly,  
E. BODEN, M.R.B.N.A.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)