

I.—How can the Nurse *à la mode* be abolished?

I do not think the Nurse *à la mode* will ever be abolished until we have a legal and compulsory system of registration of nurses, not only in reference to their character, practical and theoretical knowledge, but also as regards their uniform.

Every soldier carries on his person the badge or letters of his regiment, and the veriest little "gamin" in the streets can tell the difference between "That 'ere volunteer chap," and a regular "Tommy Atkins." Why should it not be the same with our nursing army? Let every nursing school have its own uniform and badge, and let the unqualified wearing of the same be punishable by law.

Given the registration by the State of qualifications and uniform, and I think the Nurse *à la mode* would rapidly become a thing of the past.

II.—Describe the most palatable method of administering a dose of castor oil.

Take a measured vessel, china if possible, swill it round with hot water, then pour in a teaspoonful of brandy, next the prescribed quantity of the oil, and then another teaspoonful of brandy.

Before administering, let the patient rinse his mouth well with warm water.

LILIAN MENZIES JACKSON.

ANSWERS BY THE EDITOR.

I.—How can the Nurse *à la mode* be abolished?

The means which will most effectually abolish the nurse *à la mode* are:—

(1) By the Nurse Training Schools adopting a definite and thorough curriculum, of practical and theoretical nursing education.

(2) The formation of a representative Nursing Council to control and regulate professional matters.

(3) Legal and compulsory registration of all thoroughly trained nurses.

It should be in the power of this Council to decide the standard of nursing education, to institute a uniform curriculum, to conduct the Register of Trained Nurses, and generally to act in the same capacity to the Nursing profession as the General Medical Council acts to the medical profession.

This Council would be empowered to remove from the Register all nurses who prove themselves unworthy of their calling. The nurse *à la mode* would then have no professional status, and would no longer reflect discredit upon trained nurses.

II.—Describe the most palatable method of administering a dose of castor oil.

For those who are able to swallow a bolus the most palatable way of administering castor oil is to give it in the capsules which are prepared by Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome. For those who are unable to take oil in this way it is best to administer it in brandy. Rinse a china measure in cold water to prevent the oil from sticking to the sides and rim. Put into it two drachms of brandy, then the dose of oil, and then two more drachms of brandy. Instruct the patient to swallow the dose with his head well thrown back, and as far as possible in one gulp, and he will barely taste the oil. A piece of bread or dry biscuit may be given afterwards.

If brandy be objected to, the oil may be given in strong coffee, or lemon juice, or milk. An emulsion made of equal quantities of oil and boiling milk prepared by putting both into a bottle and shaking thoroughly together is preferred by some people, to floating the oil on the milk, and is wonderfully unobjectionable.

COMMENTS BY THE EDITOR.

The papers sent in are, as a whole, better arranged than last month. A margin is left, and the answers broken up into paragraphs which adds much to their clearness. We do not think that it is within the power of the matrons to altogether abolish the nurse *à la mode* as some of our correspondents suggest. The very people who are weeded out of the hospitals as unsuitable, trade upon the little knowledge they have gained and blossom out into nurses *à la mode*.

One of our correspondents says truly that "the solution of the difficulty lies to a great extent in the hands of the employers of nursing labour. Let them insist on the nurses being drawn from reliable sources. The nurse *à la mode* will then become a drug in the market."

Another correspondent thinks that the nurse *à la mode* is to be abolished by "getting medical men to be the ally of the genuinely trained nurse, and refusing to countenance any inferior in any way." This is the matter in a nutshell. If medical men were always careful to obtain and recommend only thoroughly trained nurses, the nurse *à la mode* could not come into any professional competition with the trained nurse. The same correspondent thinks that all certificates should receive Government recognition to be of value, as "so many quack training homes give certificates to any who pay, not train, for them."

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
 DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
 A Guarantee of Purity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)