

NURSES À LA MODE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Members of the general public owe you a sincere debt of gratitude for placing before them in so lucid a manner the present relations of the trained nurse to doctor and patient, and in re-assuring our minds concerning the character of the members of the nursing profession—so rudely aroused by Lady Priestley in the *Nineteenth Century*. Speaking from personal experience, I gladly testify to the invaluable help I have always received from the nurses with whom I have come in contact in times of family sickness and trouble, and I should strongly deprecate any diminution in the three years' standard of training, all too short a time to acquire the knowledge and skill, which we members of the public, consider ourselves justified in demanding in those, to whom we have oftentimes to trust our nearest and dearest after critical operations, and during dangerous illnesses. I naturally turn to your admirable paper for opinions concerning nursing matters. Allow me therefore to assure you that I entirely sympathise with those nurses who have done so much to raise the standard of nursing education and efficiency, and I hope that those who are co-operating to maintain that high standard, may be able to prevent the lowering of the qualifications for registration, by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours truly,
MARION S. TENNANT.

Marine Parade, Brighton.

THE VICTORIA CLUB.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very pleased to read your remarks concerning Rule No. 12 of the Victoria Club in last week's RECORD. The absolute contempt for *personal rights* expressed by those responsible for the club could only have been possible in dealing with women, and shows the attitude of mind of those legislating *for*, but not *with*, nurses.

I would ask my nurse colleagues for how long are they going to meekly submit to insult after insult, without taking active and co-operative steps to express in no uncertain terms their indignation.

First, we have the wife of one of the Vice-Presidents of the Royal British Nurses' Association smirching us with mud from head to heel in the *Nineteenth Century*—a very real injury, which the "Editorial Committee" (whoever they may be), have scrupulously omitted to resent upon our behalf in the current issue of the *Nurses' (?) Journal*.

Close on this attack follows the public lecture at Torquay (I presume for cash down) of "Lady Priestley's friend," Mrs. Clare Goslett, who is reported to have traduced nurses as a class in no measured terms, and with method in her madness, no doubt. Untrained herself, it presumably does not occur to this lady that presuming to teach nursing, of which she has no practical experience, is a manner of making money, reprehensibly *à la mode*.

And now we are invited to subscribe to a club—presumably not a charitable institution, therefore founded for the financial benefit of someone—in the rules of which we are calmly informed that when they

are expelled from a public club by the Secretary "without an explanation," "Nurses (why not congenital idiots?) will understand that this rule is framed entirely for their benefit and safety"!! Benefit and safety to be denied the rudimentary right of self-defence when accused—a right on which British justice is founded!

I cannot but think that the culpable acquiescence, if not active participation of many nurses themselves, in the policy of depreciation which is sapping the life's blood of the Royal British Nurses' Association, is responsible for much of the condemnation and contempt with which members of the nursing profession are now being treated.

What is to be done to stem the tide of moral, and in consequence, of professional degeneration?

Yours,
NOT A CONGENITAL IDIOT.

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MISS WINGFIELD.

THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS NURSES.

General Hospital, Nottingham,

DEAR MADAM,—I regret that I cannot attend the meeting in St. Martin's Town Hall on January 7th. I much wish to do so, as I *most strongly protest* against the injustice of admitting asylum attendants as registered members of our corporation. I wish the meeting every success.

Believe me,
Yours faithfully,
LOUISA BRADSHAW,
M.R.B.N.A.

South Western Hospital,
Stockwell, S.W.

DEAR MADAM,—As I shall be unable to be present at the meeting on January 7th, 1897, I have signed and returned the protest against the suggestion of placing the names of Asylum Attendants on the Register, which I think would be an act of injustice to the fully-trained nurse. I for one joined the Royal British Nurses' Association in the belief that only nurses who had had a training of three years in a General Hospital would be allowed to join. All nurses to whom I have spoken on the subject hold the same opinion as myself, and regard the step as most detrimental to the status of the Association.

I am, dear madam,
Yours faithfully,
MADELINE CAIGER,
Member R.B.N.A.

The Pearn Convalescent Home,
Plymouth

DEAR MADAM,—Although I have a great objection to protests and discussions, still I must write to say how sorry I am to be unable to attend the meeting on January 7th, to protest against asylum nurses being placed upon the Register of Trained Nurses. I think it is very unfair both to the public and to those nurses who have to devote at least three years to their training. I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,
C. NOEL THOMPSON,
Lady Superintendent.

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