

should be paid well enough to put by for ourselves, and not be placed by the present system in the position of those receiving parish relief.

Apologising for troubling you.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,

L. S.

[We regret that the answers were too late for this month's Competition.—ED.]

THE VICTORIAN ERA EXHIBITION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Being keen to see the Victorian Era Exhibition, and more especially the women's section of it, I paid a visit to Earl's Court in the early part of last week, and I must say I came away most bitterly disappointed, and more than disappointed—indignant that an opportunity, the like of which will probably never come to British women again, should have been so thrown away. Take the Nursing Section for instance. We know, with the remembrance of last year's Nursing Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall in our minds, what can be achieved in this way, and surely an exhibition which aspires to be national, if not imperial, should at least attain to the standard of one organised by a private individual. But this is very far from being the case. The Nursing Section at the Victorian Era Exhibition is a pretty little show as far as it goes, but it makes no pretence of being anything more. If the object of its promoters is to attract the public it has to some extent attained it. If the object is, as I and many other nurses fondly hoped, to present a record of the rise and progress of nursing, and a complete collection of nursing appliances and nurses' inventions, scientifically arranged, it has failed miserably and utterly, and I think that we nurses have a right to be indignant. I read your article on the Exhibition in last week's NURSING RECORD, but if you will forgive me for saying so I think it was too complimentary. I send you some quotations from *Woman* in case you may not have seen them.

"The women's section of this Exhibition is a bitter disappointment. The regrettable fact is that people with handles to their names are rarely to be relied upon for carrying out the details of a scheme, and judging by results I have no alternative but to tax the committee with a serious lack of industry. . . . There will be a good deal of indignation amongst those who are keen upon behalf of their sex over this much advertised concern, which was to be the great Englishwomen's show of the century. It was organised in a terrible hurry, and the results correspond. . . . As matters have turned out it would be better in each case to leave the working women, who grudge no toil or rebuff in such a cause, to manage for themselves an affair which touches them so closely."

To my thinking this is not one whit too strong.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I found my way the other day to the Victorian Era Exhibition. I came away a sadder and a wiser woman than when I went there. Why is

it that when there was such a splendid opportunity for women to show what they have done and can do, that they have "muffed their chances" so entirely? My own idea is that it is because the organisation was not in the hands of the right kind of people, but I may be wrong.

One omission in the programme did, and does, make me feel very indignant, namely, that in the "Education Congress on Subjects of Imperial Interest" the question of Nursing is not so much as mentioned. Surely in a three days' Congress one hour, at all events, might have been devoted to a subject of such vital importance. I venture to think even that it would have been of much more general interest than the "Reception of Delegates by the Countess of Warwick," and that it might with advantage still be substituted for this function, which seems somewhat out of place at a Congress.

Hoping that the next Women's Exhibition will be organised by women who know their work, and who "mean business," and that we shall not have to blush for another miserable *fiasco*.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
A WORKING WOMAN.

INSTITUTION HOUSEKEEPING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Amongst the many topics which are ventilated in the NURSING RECORD, there is one which I should much like to see discussed, namely, the problem as to how nurses who wish to qualify themselves for higher appointments are to obtain experience in housekeeping.

I believe that the matrons of all hospitals, with very few exceptions, are required to supervise the house-keeping department, even when there is a housekeeper, and it is certainly right that this should be so. Consequently to obtain a matron's post a knowledge of housekeeping is essential, and of this very many nurses have had no experience, and for this reason are considered ineligible for appointments, although their nursing credentials, and their capacity for organisation, may be all that can be desired.

Is it not possible that a course of housekeeping should be included in the curriculum of our training schools, even if it necessitates a longer period of training, at all events for those nurses who are, in the opinion of the matron, suitable candidates for posts of responsibility?

I believe that in a few hospitals some attempt is made in this direction, but certainly there is no organised system on a large scale. Yet the need is a very real one, and is keenly felt by many nurses who realise the necessity of education in this department.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
ONE OF THE NUMBER.

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