

The enormous amount of money spent annually in keeping up luxurious offices, and four clerks, and in legal expenses provoked by injustice, is an item of management that requires investigation; as nothing is being done for the benefit of the members generally, and we object to being held up as objects of charity to the public.

The proposal to deal with all these serious matters at our Annual Meeting is a farce. We know those meetings too well. No—there is but one satisfactory way of dealing with the present management of our Association, and that is by unprejudiced members of the public where there is a "fair field and no favour," and I hope that the Press will help us to get the full and open investigation we ask for.

It is an open secret that the Bye-laws are being revised, so as to deprive the nurse members of many of the liberties and privileges we *ought* to be now enjoying under the present constitution. The truth is, the better class of nurses are anxious to inaugurate a better system of nursing—by public examinations and legal registration, for their own benefit and for the protection of the public, and this desire for progress seems most objectionable to our officials. The present chaotic condition of the nursing profession cannot in justice be permitted to continue, but if any improvement is to be effected, it must be done by the public. Then, before long, I hope our meetings will again be restored to the quiet, business tone of the early days of the Association, when the chair was occupied by our ever generous and true friend the late Sir William Savory, and when he was so ably supported by the matrons who founded the Association, and progress was steadily made in all nursing matters.

I thank you for the part you are taking in bringing the matter before the public.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA HURLSTON.

2, Queen's Gardens, Broadstairs,
July 14th, 1894.

ARE NURSES CLUBABLE?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am wondering how many nurses even yet has heard of the "Victoria Commemoration Club." I am sure thousands have heard nothing about it. I should like them to hear how much it was appreciated by its members on Jubilee Day. I was in the country, and had to leave by a very early train, arriving at 6 a.m. I should, I suppose, have wandered about the streets until 9 a.m., when I was to meet my friends and go to my seat, but thanks to the Club I was able to go there, wash, brush, rest, and enjoy a comfortable breakfast before starting. After the procession (which many members who had no seats saw from the windows) there was a splendid luncheon, provided at very moderate charges, and which was much appreciated to all appearance by the members and their friends, who enjoyed their rest in the cool rooms, and who dined sumptuously before starting for the illuminations. You know the drawing-room is well filled with papers of every kind, and the dressing-room is a delight to a tired and travel-stained nurse, as it is well supplied with all necessaries down to a needle and cotton. I cannot help thinking that many nurses will like to join this and next month, as no doubt many will be coming up for the meetings of the

Royal British Nurses' Association and R.N.P.F., and especially as they will only have to pay a half-year's subscription to the end of the year.

I have found the Club the greatest boon, being a private nurse, and having no real place of my own. It is good to belong to a nice club where you can receive your friends, and give them a comfortable tea, luncheon or dinner. Everything is most daintily served, and the charges *most* moderate. Miss Foggo Thompson is kindness itself, and ever ready to accept suggestions from members for their comfort, and great praise is due to her for the way she has worked to make the club what it is in so short a time. She is doing her utmost to make it a real success and benefit to nurses. Three bedrooms are soon to be added as soon as the necessary number have joined. It will be delightful as a residential club.

I remain, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
LOUISA STACEY, M.R.B.N.A.

RIGHTS v. PRIVILEGES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I may be specially obtuse, but I confess that I am unable to understand your reviewer's definition of a privilege as "a right not given to all." If it is a right and is *not* given to all, surely an injustice at once arises.

I must also join issue with your correspondent on her opinion that our husbands, sons, and brothers are what we have made them. Unhappily this is not borne out by fact. I can also quote Tennyson in support of my statements, and entirely agree with him in the belief that many a woman is to her husband

"When his passion shall have spent its novel force,
Something better than his dog, a little dearer than his horse."

Any woman of discernment may look round upon her married acquaintances and observe for herself whether this is the case or not. When married women are regarded in this light by their "better halves," save the mark! it is difficult to see how they are to "make" these gentlemen.

With regard to their sons, I believe that many mothers feel keenly that the making of them is almost entirely taken out of their hands. At about nine years of age boys are practically taken away from their mothers and placed in public schools, where it is not their fault if they do not learn every sort of iniquity, and the restraining influence of the home life, and the mother's care is entirely removed. Personally, I am strongly of opinion that it is most desirable, when possible, that boys should live at home, and attend good public day schools, but I am aware that I am in a minority in holding this view, and that the average parents of to-day think that they can better the arrangements made by Providence for the protection of their children, and that the advantages afforded by a public boarding school are infinitely superior to those of the home life.

For the rest, does woman have "not merely what a man might demand" but this, and more besides? For myself, if I ever obtain what man at present demands I shall be quite content to forego the "more besides."

I am, dear madam,
Yours faithfully,
RIGHTS v. PRIVILEGES.

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