

"Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaries?" A Member of the Council.

- 3.—"How to meet the increasing difficulty experienced by Matrons of Hospitals of under forty beds, in procuring Probationers." Miss Georgina Scott, late Matron, Sussex County Hospital.

RESOLUTION BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK:—

"That a cordial invitation be extended by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland to the Honorary Members of the Society, to attend the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women, to be held in London in the summer of 1899, and that hospitality be offered to these ladies for the Conference Week."



Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &c.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

FUDDLED FINANCE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Goldsmith Building, Temple,
May 24th., 1898,

DEAR MADAM,—I thank you for publishing my letter, which I beg now to confirm. I also thank you for kindly promising me space (1) for a reply to your comments on my letter, (2) to make a statement thereon. Not being the Treasurer of the Home Hospitals Association for Paying Patients, it is not in my power to comply with your request as to the statement, even were it necessary. But in point of fact it is not necessary, because all those who take a genuine interest in the Association have been supplied, from the first, with a copy of each report and yearly statement of accounts duly audited by a firm of Chartered Accountants, so that they are all kept fully informed as to the status and progress of the Association.

I may mention, however, that on reference to the Annual Report of the Home Hospitals' Association, 1880 (the year Fitzroy House was opened), I find that after the initial expenses incurred to form the Association which were rather heavy, especially the legal ones, the amount available to start Fitzroy House was £10,523, which you may remember was the sum mentioned in my former letter.

I submit there is no variance between what I stated in my recent letter and what I wrote in the Annual Report for 1886. The Committee simply expressed a wish to sensibly reduce the charge for patients *in some of our rooms* when circumstances permitted.

The Association was not *formed* for the admission of any particular class of patients, but simply "to provide accommodation for the treatment and care of all patients who are able and willing to pay for the same according to their respective requirements." So we do not at present favour any particular class, but we so arrange our rooms and our charges as to permit all the different classes of the community to be accommodated.

As the Chairman said at the last annual meeting of the Association "we do not endeavour to make money out of our patients: we only strive to give them the very best and their full money's worth," our object simply being to make our receipts equal our expenses. You must remember that the Association is not a charity; it is a public Association duly registered under the Companies' Acts and licensed by, and under the supervision of, the Board of Trade.

Faithfully yours,

T. ALMOND HIND,
Hon. Sec. H.H.A.

[We regret that Mr. Almond Hind's letter fails to explain the "misstatements" in his previous communication which we pointed out. We showed from the published report of the Home Hospitals' Association for 1886, that the actual amount of public subscriptions and contributions to that institution amounted to £15,271 5s. 6d. We now place, in parallel columns, the statements made by Mr. Hind, in his letter of May 6th and that which he now makes.

<p>"You say £15,000 was obtained from the charitable public to start Fitzroy House; in point of fact the money available from the contributions of governors and members, &c., was £10,523."</p>	<p>"On reference to the annual report of the Home Hospitals' Association for 1880, I find that after the initial expenses incurred to form the Association, which were rather heavy, especially the legal ones, the amount available to start Fitzroy House was £10,523."</p>
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Are we then to understand that the expenses of starting this charity were no less than £4,748? If so, we consider that Mr. Almond Hind should furnish the public with some explanation of this most extraordinary fact. We should have considered an expenditure of £48 excessive, for the initial expenses of such a scheme. Our readers will observe that Mr. Almond Hind does not attempt to dispute the accuracy of the figures and quotations from the Report of his Association, which we quoted in our issue of May 21st, and which proved conclusively not only that our previous statements were accurate, but also that the statements made by Mr. Almond Hind in our columns were inaccurate and misleading. Mr. Hind's attempt on the present occasion to assert that an Association which cost £4,700 of public money to initiate, and to which the charitable gave more than £15,000 "is not a charity" is too ridiculous for further comment.—ED.]

UNIFORM EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest Miss Mary Riddle's paper published in the NURSING RECORD, and her suggestion that Matrons of hospitals should combine and simultaneously hold examinations of their nurses—the questions set having been decided upon by a Committee of Matrons—appears to me to be an excellent one and quite feasible. I venture to suggest, however, that unless all the papers were corrected by one person the result would scarcely be a fair one to the nurses. Different people mark so differently that one nurse might fail, and another one pass, though the papers of the two candidates might attain the same standard. I believe that

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