

absolutely ignorant. It is so much easier to live on low than on high levels, that the inevitable result will be that if the men of the Soudan only are benefitted by the Gordon Memorial College they will, when they marry, retrograde easily and naturally to the level of their wives, and the College must therefore of necessity deal with the question of the education of the women also, or it may as well save itself the trouble and expense of rolling a ball up hill. Besides the tacit endorsement of the Mohamedan creed that "women have no souls," is scarcely an article of faith which was included in Gordon's creed, and the College is presumably intended to demonstrate his views.

With respect to the conspicuous absence of the names of women on the list of the Council of the College, it is sad but—are not the interests of women almost always shelved, and do not women almost invariably acquiesce in this treatment, so that it must appear to the male sex that they like it. The remedy for this contempt lies with the women themselves. When they are determined to have just representation in public affairs they will get it, but they need never suppose that men will ask them to accept it.

Yours obediently,
A PLAIN SPOKEN WOMAN.

WHY NOT MALE NURSES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—One of the reasons why male nurses are not received for training in our general hospitals, is, I feel sure the great difficulty of providing accommodation for their residence. It is only quite lately that the majority of training schools have provided anything like adequate room for the female staff, and the admittance of men as pupil nurses, would mean, providing an entirely new and separate establishment. Where is the space and money to come from for this purpose? We all know women's labour is much cheaper than that of men, and few of our hospitals have yet got a full female staff, although all of late years have been making immense improvements and reforms. And again the class from which male pupil nurses could be secured, is very much lower than that from which a sufficient number of women can be easily obtained and education and refinement we must remember have done more to brighten the lives in our hospital than anything else. I was glad to see in last week's issue your emphatic statement that in your experience the conduct of poor men in the wards, is all that is pure—your experience coincides with my own, twenty years of hospital and district work have taught me that poor men hold the nurse in the greatest reverence and esteem, and should a man offer any form of insult to a nurse, I should conclude at once that he was not sane. I may add that I have known poor helpless fellows from the "submerged tenth" apologise over and over again for requiring services from the nurse, which were necessitated by their special disease and suffering. No, sometimes I have wished that East End manners could be established in the West, where apparently a nurse's uniform is in no sense a protection to her.

Yours,
A. B.

AN IMMINENT DANGER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was glad to observe that in criticising the present position of the Prince of Wales' Fund, you laid stress on the fact that with the centralisation of funds, to be divided as seems good to a few gentlemen on the Committee of this Fund, a great danger for the public is not unlikely to result. Hospital management is yet far from perfect, but the great benefit to the poor of the voluntary system of maintaining them is, that personal interest is taken in each institution by a certain number of subscribers, and thus a certain measure of public control is maintained. Under the new system, whereby the hospitals will receive large sums of money at the pleasure of the half dozen active members of the Prince of Wales' Fund—human nature being what it is—mistakes are sure sooner or later to be made. Take the Middlesex Hospital, to the management of which you referred last week. In last year's division of the Prince of Wales' Fund, a more than generous donation was made to this institution. Why? Are its finances more carefully expended than other institutions? Certainly not. From the last quarterly report, we learn that quite the contrary is the case. And again, are the interests of the sick poor of the district more tenderly cared for than at sister institutions? Again, I say, certainly not. Was not the whole hospital shut up to the neighbouring poor for eight or nine weeks during this last summer during holiday time, when the "cases" were no longer necessary for the work of the medical school? What has the Committee of the Prince of Wales' Fund to say to this state of affairs, and what redress have the sick and helpless poor of the neighbourhood? None, I say, so long as some members of the distributing Committee are personal friends of the Committee and officials of this hospital. No, our general hospitals must either be maintained by the generous support of the charitable, whose first care is the comfort and well being of the sick, or they will develop into "close corporations" where the sick and the poor will have no power of appeal from systems and management which may not always be for their interest. What is needed is more, and not less control of hospitals by the general public. I also agree with you that the cursory visit to these institutions by the gentlemen named, cannot be taken seriously as "expert inspection," and I feel sure the majority of them must realise that a hospital cannot be inspected satisfactorily in an official visit of a couple of hours duration, and that the sanitary, nursing and domestic departments were taken "on trust."

Yours truly,
SPECIAL HOSPITAL.

NURSES' MANNERS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is most unfair on the part of "Detester of Discourtesy" to make such sweeping charges, which are unworthy of a reply, against the nurses of some unnamed hospital. If rudeness was experienced it was the visitor's duty to bring the same to the notice of the Matron, when no doubt the case would have been investigated. Yours, X. Z.

[We cannot agree that "Detester of Discourtesy's" letter is unfair, as it is true, and such impertinence is calculated to do our hospitals much harm.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)