

that he was met with a detailed account of her excellencies, and the remark that there had "never been a complaint of her before" and his statement was manifestly disbelieved. It is not the invariable experience of the public that their complaints are "investigated" and when a lady who makes a justifiable complaint is threatened by a public institution with an action for libel is it to be wondered at if the public does not always do its "duty?"

Yours faithfully, W. Y.

WOMEN AND WAR.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The late Spanish-American war has demonstrated—if demonstration were necessary—the superior effectiveness of the female nurse in caring for the injured soldiers. All available data from hospitals where women nurses were employed support this claim, and it is gratifying to note that army officials themselves have gradually been converted to this view of the matter. It is from this source that the strongest opposition to the female nurse has arisen. It was contended that she is not fitted physically to endure the hardships incident to service in hospitals in the front of battle, but experience has effectively refuted this assertion. The call just made for a large number of trained female nurses to serve in Hawaii, the Philippines or the Antilles, if their presence should be required, shows that the medical department of the army is now convinced of a fact long ago apparent to the lay mind.

Late developments would appear to justify the conclusions that the female nurse will at no distant day be a recognised adjunct of the army. She has proved her worth on many a battlefield, and her devotion to duty is unassailable and unchanging. Neither the ravages of pestilence nor the dangers of war can deter her from following where the flag leads. Her influence is immeasurably superior to that of man in caring for the sick and wounded.

All medical experts agree that a patient's mind has much to do with his physical condition, and the soothing care of a sympathetic woman would manifestly be a more effective medium of encouragement to a patient than the attentions of a cold phlegmatic man nurse, however capable he might be.

The indications to-day point to further trouble with Spain, and in that unwelcome event I venture the opinion that the female nurse will be found "with the troops," supported by the strong arm of the Government as its recognized agent in smoothing the uneven pathway of the "men behind the guns."

STARS AND STRIPES."

WHY NOT MALE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The reason that the training of male nurses would increase the expenditure in hospitals, is no valid ground why men should not be trained if they are necessary for the nursing of certain patients. I am strongly of opinion that—excepting for violent patients—such as those suffering from fits and "D.T.," and those who are paralysed, all cases are more efficiently nursed by women. Men should not, if possible, be occupied with sedentary work, they resent restraint, and are not amenable to discipline as

women are. I once worked as the Sister of a ward, with male nurses—and it was impossible to make them appreciate the necessity for order—the wards were never tidy nor corners clean.—Yours,

SISTER.

"WILL OTHERS DO LIKEWISE." ?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I think you will like to know how much pleasure the RECORD gives to a reader of whom probably you know nothing. I have been in the habit of passing on my copy to an old nurse who used to take in the paper constantly, but now through poor health, and constant attendance on a blind husband, she is not in good circumstances, and consequently some time ago, gave up her weekly luxury. Lately I had a letter from her which I regret I cannot forward to you as it has been lost, but she tells me how *very* glad she is to see the RECORD again, that she has little money, and is unable to purchase books or magazines, and that she looks forward to the RECORD every week, as her one great treat—in fact, it is her literature.

I am not surprised, as the paper is most interesting to those outside the Nursing world; so to an old nurse it must revive many memories, and keep her in touch with her former well-loved profession.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully, E. P. B!

Wimbledon,
December 19th, 1898.

NURSING IN FEVER HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in last week's Editorial about work in Fever Hospitals, and the fact which you bring out, that now that so many diseases are eliminated from the General Hospital wards it is difficult for a nurse to obtain a thorough training—unless she spends some time in a fever hospital—is becoming more and more marked. In the old days the medical wards of our general hospitals contained diphtheria and typhoid, and to nurse such cases was of the utmost value to the probationer. Now one may pass through a general hospital and become certificated without once seeing typhoid, or any other fever, or tracheotomy, and in private nursing this is indeed a loss. The fact is that we nurses must train for a certain time in a fever hospital before we are really efficient, and certainly from past experience I should strongly advise all nurses who intend taking up private nursing to work for a year or more in a fever hospital. Thanking you for a year of most valuable information in your able paper,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

FEVER NURSE.

[We quite agree with our correspondent that it is becoming more and more essential for nurses to obtain training in fever hospitals. Not only do cases of typhoid fever and diphtheria test and bring out the capacity of a nurse more perhaps than any others, but in private practice nurses are frequently in demand for cases of this description, and if they cannot take them, and of course they cannot if they have had no previous experience, they lose much good work.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)