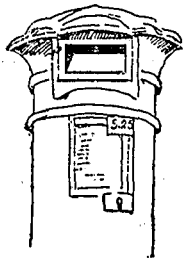


Letters to the Editor.

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.

A DELUSION AND A SNARE.*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM.—I am very glad to see that the question of the nursing of Private Nursing Homes is being ventilated in the NURSING RECORD. I was told only the other day by a lady, who said that she paid well for the attention that she received, that she was nursed while in one of these Homes by the cook. "How did the doctor approve of that," I enquired, "Oh, the cook didn't appear," was the answer, "the Lady Superintendent always went round with him." On the face of it this is deception, because, if the qualifications of the cook, as a nurse, are considered satisfactory by the proprietor of the Home, why should she always be kept in the background when the doctor's visits are paid?

It is surely time that such scandals as this should cease. If the public pay a fair price for skilled nursing, there should certainly be some means of ensuring that they obtain it. They could be nursed in their own houses by their cooks, that is, if a good cook could be found to undertake the work. How the proprietor of this home found a cook willing to combine the two vocations is what puzzles me. The average housewife finds it difficult enough to get one who will undertake her own work. I think it is time that something was done to ensure that Nursing Homes should be what they profess. Of course there are Homes, not a few, which honestly do their duty by their patients, it is not of these that I am speaking, but of those institutions where patients are received ostensibly for the purpose of receiving skilled nursing, where the proprietor is untrained, and where the nursing is such as I have described.

I am, Dear MADAM,
Yours faithfully,
HONESTY.

A BAD INVESTMENT.*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—The question which your correspondent, "An Uitlander," raised in your last issue as to the value of a one year's certificate, is an important one, and cannot be too widely discussed. Of course trained nurses know that nothing under a three years' certificate is any use to them. Without this they are excluded from the positions of Sisters in the Army and Navy, and Indian Army Nursing Services, the positions of Superintendent Nurse under the Poor Law, and of Charge Nurse under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. But the lay world does not know this, and not unfrequently a girl, quite ignorant of nursing matters, is

tempted to enter a hospital, which trains for the shorter rather than the longer period. Why should she bind herself for three years, she thinks, not unnaturally, when she can get the necessary education in two? It is a foolish mistake, but an easy one to make. I remember, when I first thought of nursing, I asked a doctor whether three months' training would be sufficient for me. I wanted to do district nursing afterwards. "Quite enough," he said. "You get put into the way of things, and the rest you can pick up as you go along." Of course, when I once got into a hospital I found three months no good to me, and entered for three years' training. But when a girl consults the Matron of a hospital, and she tells her that she can be thoroughly trained in a year, she proves herself either very unscrupulous or very ignorant of what constitutes training. The day of promotion by payment has passed. It is becoming recognised, by public bodies, at any rate, that a three years' certificate is a necessity, and the sooner the laity recognise it, and avoid the hospitals which profess to train in a shorter period the better.

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO WAS TRAINED IN THE EIGHTIES.

"VOLTE FACE."*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to see that you have drawn attention to the action of the Royal British Nurses' Association in suppressing the Register hitherto published by the Association without so much as consulting the members on so all-important a change of front, and substituting for it a roll of medical men and nurses which can be of no possible professional use to us. I was present at the meeting held at St. George's Hall, when the Association was publicly founded, and I know the stress that was then laid upon the value which Registration would be to us, and this by no less an authority than the late Sir William Savory. I was present at the meeting at the Mansion House, when Sir James Crichton Browne argued that if it was expedient to register plumbers, it might fairly be assumed that the registration of nurses was at least as necessary. The older members of the Association know that legal registration was always set before them as their goal. They know that they joined the British Nurses Association in order to obtain it. What they do not know is the reason for the complete volte face, and I think it behoves the Hon. Officers of the Association to make an explicit statement to the members on this point, and, certainly, further, to cease from taking money from nurses for "registering" them, when, in point of fact, they are not registered, for the simple reason that there is no Register.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

INDIGNATION.

[In the last issue of the *Nurses' Journal*, eleven nurses are said to have been Registered, although notice has been given that the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. has determined not to issue a Register. Four of these nurses were from the Middlesex Hospital. We are glad to find, therefore, that very few nurses who are not compelled to do so, are being deceived in the matter.—ED.]

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