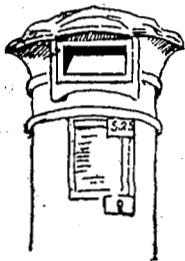


Letters to the Editor.

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 VEXED QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I hope you will allow me to take up a little of your valuable space by a few words on the "vexed question" of Nursing Uniforms. I should be glad to know through any of your readers if it is possible when the Matron of a hospital states that she does not wish her nurses to wear uniform out-of-doors, for them to do so for the sake of convenience? A friend of mine, who has been a "lady-pupil" for a year in one of the London hospitals, tells me that this is the case, and that I shall find when I go to my training-school that many of the nurses wear uniform in spite of the Matron's wishes, "because she has no control over their dress outside the hospital." I think, myself, it is a pity such a rule should be made, both for the sake of convenience, and also principally, because it seems to me that a nurse's calling is, or ought to be, such a high and noble one that she should be only too glad to proclaim it to the outside world to shew to what she has given her life, and that she need not be ashamed of it, as it appears so many are now-a-days—to judge by their objection to wearing the outward sign of their profession, that is to say.

Believe me,
Yours faithfully,
A FUTURE PROBATIONER.

THE IRISH NURSING QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I do not think in England you can appreciate how hardly this new Order from the Local Government Board presses upon many very experienced nurses, as you may not know that the majority of us, who have trained even within the last decade, have been sent out private nursing after one or, at the longest, two years training. The Irish hospitals are so poor that we have been given a short training, and in return we have done private nursing for the institution, and thus *paid in full* the expenses incurred on our behalf. This new Order can never be carried out, as there are not nearly enough nurses in Ireland with the experience required, who are willing to work in the Poor Law Infirmarys. Many of these places are in a terribly crude condition—no home comforts at all—and well-trained nurses will not stay, even if they undertake duty in them. There ought to have been more consultation with the doctors and Matrons before issuing the present Order.

Yours truly,
"AN IRISH SISTER."

PROFESSIONAL DEPRECIATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I see in Monday's *Morning Post*, under the heading of Arrangements, May 15th: "Princess Christian's Café Chantant for the Royal British Nurses' Association, at the Hotel Cecil." Now, from the protests made by eminent women journalists in the daily press against this form of charity entertainment in their own behalf, surely if this same form of pauperising trained nurses, and thus depreciating their professional standing in the opinion of the public, was brought to the notice of the leading women journalists, they would be able to condemn this shameful affair in the press. I also hope the Matrons' Council will take some means of publicly protesting against nurses being constantly utilized for advertising purposes. We don't want to be bolstered up by charitable support—those that do their duty, both in hospitals and in private nursing, are fairly paid, and can well maintain themselves. All this disgrace emanates from the present servile executive committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and is one of the chief reasons why self-respecting nurses have severed their connection with the Association.

Yours,
"A SELF-SUPPORTING PERSON."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM.—Is it too much to hope that the Matrons of the leading London Hospitals will follow the excellent example set by the women journalists and that they will protest publicly in the name of the Nursing Profession against the Café Chantant held under the auspices of the Royal British Nurses Association, for the benefit of its members, as likely to injure the professional status of nurses? I fear so, as I see no sign of it, but surely we have a right to expect it from them.

Yours faithfully,
INDEPENDENCE.

THE COMING CONGRESS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was delighted with last week's RECORD giving so much information about the coming Congress, and, indeed, we nurses may well congratulate ourselves that we are kept so well in touch not only with our professional affairs, but also with matters of interest to women "Outside the Gates."

In studying the Programme of the Congress I was thankful to see, for once, that Clothes and the Kitchen were not to be discussed, as these are popularly the only two topics that women are supposed, and are permitted, to be interested in. My only regret is that as, presumably this comprehensive list of subjects will be discussed simultaneously, I cannot hear all the Papers and Discussions. Might I ask how nurses, who are not members of the Matrons' Council, can get a seat to hear Mrs. May Wright Sewall's Address? I would willingly pay to be admitted. With much gratitude for all your labour on our behalf,

I Remain,
"A MOST APPRECIATIVE READER."

[The Hon. Secretary will bring the question of admission to hear Mrs. Sewall's Address before the Matrons' Council at its next meeting. No doubt a limited number of seats will be available by request.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)