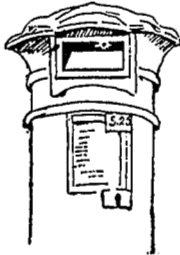


Letters to the Editor.

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.

RECOGNISED TRAINING SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM.—In reading over your recent correspondence, I should much like to know your opinion of how Provincial Hospitals that are not recognised Training Schools are to get Probationers, as of course you will agree with me, no woman in her senses will enter one for training to be looked upon as only partially trained and not eligible for any good appointment. I also think some allowance ought to be made for those nurses trained in the eighties, who through no fault of their own, are placed in this unfair position. I hope this question will be brought forward at the coming Congress, a most important one to our Provincial Hospitals of fifty or sixty beds. Personally I think it rather hard, considering Nurses may not train until five and twenty, and the public do not care to employ them over five and thirty, that they should be obliged to train for four years, and taught many things, only needed in very exceptional cases. An old lady once said to me, "I thought, nurse, you were trained to do without sleep." Who knows! we may arrive to that state of perfection, but our sisters over the sea will arrive first.

I am, Madam, Yours faithfully,
NOUS VERRONS.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It was with much pleasure that I read the report of the meeting of the Matrons' Council in your last issue. It is most satisfactory to see that the Society is proving to the world that British matrons realize their public responsibilities, and that they are taking upon themselves the duty of entertaining their foreign hon. members during the International Congress. It is also with pleasure that I note the feeling expressed by the hon. members in response to this invitation. It means, to my mind, that matrons from all the world over are being drawn together by community of sentiment, and by unity of purpose; that they are in touch with one another, and that they appreciate the work of one another, and to me this one fact makes me full of hope for the future. The isolation of matrons is being broken down, and when they are in touch with one another, and in all quarters of the world are inspired with the same desire for nursing progress, and professional co-operation, they surely will be, in the future, a force against which all adverse elements will be powerless. The sign of the times in the sky is at present perhaps no bigger than a man's hand, but it is *there*.

Yours faithfully,
ONE WHO IS WATCHING IT.

THE PULSE OF THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to see in the NURSING RECORD that the editor of a medical journal is becoming aware of the unpopularity brought upon his cloth by a certain section of his colleagues who are opposed to any sort of justice for midwives. The public is without doubt beginning to recognize that there is something under all this agitation about midwives besides pure philanthropy. The protection of working-class mothers, is a very good cry, but if anyone wishes to know its worth let him go to a poor district, where a really efficient midwife is in practice and let him take the vote of those women who have been attended by her as to whether they prefer her services or those of the local medical man. I prophesy there would be no substance left in the popular cry, after such a canvas. I am not one of those who ever wish midwives to be independent practitioners. I do not think they should ever work except in conjunction with a medical man. But I do say, from a knowledge founded upon considerable experience, that the large majority of lying-in women can with advantage be attended by a midwife, and that the time she is able to give them, and her subsequent attention to both mother and child, afford the patient a much greater degree of comfort than the single hurried visit of a medical practitioner at the time of her confinement. It is a curious fact that the medical men who are supporting the Bill, are those who are specialists in midwifery, but who are far removed, by their professional position, from any danger of being brought into financial competition with midwives. On the other hand, those who most hotly oppose legislation, are the country practitioners. Does not this point to the necessity for an unprejudiced opinion, and for eliminating that of those whose monetary interests are likely to be affected? It appears so to me.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A MIDWIFE.

A REPROACH.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I heartily agree with your editoria remarks concerning the *Woman's Signal*. We must all feel it a reproach that the one woman's paper which steadfastly upheld the best interests of women, and which catered for its readers as if they cared for something beyond fine clothes, and good food, has been allowed to die of inanition. Is the estimate of the male sex of womankind after all the right one, that the literature which appeals to women is that which provides them with Society gossip, and the latest fashions, and the most elaborate menus? It seems very like it, otherwise why do "Ladies" journals which provide such fare sell by thousands, while the poor *Signal*, which really did cater for its readers as if they were reasonable members of Society is dead and buried. There is at least a minority which is grateful to Mrs. Fenwick Miller for her work, and who will be broader-minded, better, members of society all their lives for the influence that the *Signal* has been to them.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours truly,
A READER OF THE *Signal*.

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