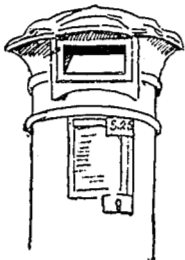


Letters to the Editor.

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,—It seems to me that the first thing to be done before discussing the letter of your correspondent "Nous verrons" is to decide what constitutes a recognised training school. This is a point which certainly might, with advantage, be brought forward at the coming Congress. First of all the lowest number of beds which will qualify a hospital to term itself a training school for nurses must be decided. Personally I think that the standard might very well be fixed at 50 or 60 beds. I do not mean to say that this is an ideal standard, but it is quite a high enough one to afford considerable experience and a sound education. The chief advantage of training in a large hospital, is undoubtedly that under wise control the discipline, which forms so large a factor in the education of the ideal nurse, can be brought to greater perfection, but at the same time, in a hospital of 50 beds it is quite possible to enforce all that is necessary in this respect.

Then again, the length of training must be decided, and we may take it for granted, I think, in these days that no hospital which does not train for at least three years has a right to rank as a training school. Then any hospital which aspires to the name of training school must of necessity have some systematic system of training. Many institutions are very good learning schools for an intelligent pupil, on account of the variety of cases which she sees, but systematic training seems to be conspicuous by its absence. Furthermore, it would seem unnecessary to add that the Superintendent of Nurses must herself be a trained and certificated nurse, were it not for the fact that only last week an advertisement appeared for a matron for a General Hospital, in which it was stated "Preference will be given to a trained nurse." Imagine an advertisement for a medical attendant for the same institution. "Preference will be given to a qualified medical man" ! but then, Parliament has decreed that unqualified medical practice is illegal. When will unqualified nursing be taboo also? One is just as dangerous to the public as the other.

Your correspondent also takes for granted that it is accepted as an all-round rule that a nurse "may not train until five-and-twenty." I can only say that I personally began my training in one of the largest London training schools at twenty-three, and, moreover, that I am one of those who "trained in the eighties," and that I obtained a three years' certificate. Nevertheless I am inclined to agree that some allowance should be made for nurses who trained for a shorter period at this time, provided they hold the certificate of their training school.

The point as to how hospitals which are not recognised training schools are to obtain probationers

is, to my mind, easily settled. They should not have any, for, if they are not recognised as training schools, it is manifestly unfair of them to profess to train. The difficulty might, however, be met, I believe, by groups of small hospitals joining together, and this might also be done in the case of special hospitals. For instance, why should not institutions like the Seamen's at Greenwich, and the New Hospital for Women, neither of which can offer a thorough training, join hands, and so enable nurses to get an all-round experience? Otherwise small or special hospitals should certainly only be nursed by certificated nurses.

There is much more one might say, but I am already afraid of being told that my prolixity prevents the insertion of my letter.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

A CONSTANT READER.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I for one obeyed your instructions to give careful attention to your foreign letter last week. I must say it fascinated me, and I read it again and again. All honour to American Nurses, and I hope they will carry their Army Nursing Bill triumphantly next year, and have their own nursing superintendent too. I was surprised at your correspondent's remarks about the American Red Cross. I always thought it was one of the most honoured and energetic of all the Red Cross Societies. Look at our own. It came to the front, certainly, in the Soudan campaign, and did work which should have been done by Government, but that is about all one has ever heard about it. It has no organisation for sending nurses to other nations in time of war, and in the late war between Greece and Turkey, trained nurses were sent out from England, not under the British Red Cross Society, but by the *Daily Chronicle*. Our American colleagues are certainly on the right track as regards their nursing organisation. What could be better than the education of their senior pupil-nurses in their duties as graduate members of their alumnae associations in the future? This is precisely the point where our nursing education in this country has failed so far. The actual technical knowledge and skill of well trained British nurses is of a high order, but their education as to their wider professional responsibilities has been almost if not quite entirely neglected. What wonder then that the nurses fail to appreciate these responsibilities later on. May British Superintendents soon follow the example set at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, by Miss Nutting.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

BRITISHER.

SMOKING IN BED.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I see with dismay in the daily press that the Holbeach Guardians have decided to make to the male inmates of their infirmary, an allowance of half-an-ounce of tobacco, per week, and to allow the patients to smoke while lying in bed. Just think of it! Think of all the infirm, palsied, semi-helpless people, who will secret matches (warranted to strike anywhere, no doubt) under their pillows and in various other places. Consider the small proportion of nurses to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)