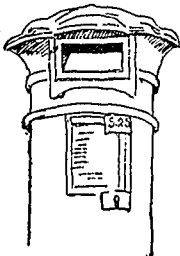


Letters to the Editor.

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.

POOR THINGS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The Nursing Profession is much indebted to you for the varied information conveyed to its members in the pages of the NURSING RECORD. That which comes from America is most refreshing, showing as it does the excellent terms existing between the Medical and Nursing Professions in that country, the former graciously acknowledging the assistance obtained from the latter. The treatment accorded British nurses by British medical men is sad beyond expression; whilst the downward course of the R. B. N. Association makes us feel "poor things" indeed! Let us hope the cause of the resignation of Miss I. Entwisle from its ranks may hasten a crisis all members of the Nursing Profession most wish for.

Yours obediently,
ROSINA GRAHAM.

22nd May, 1899.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF INFIRMARY NURSING.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very encouraged by the way in which you dealt with the difficulties of the Superintendent Nurse at Scarborough. I greatly sympathize with her. It is very wearying to be constantly called up after busy trying days, and in a small infirmary the Superintendent very frequently has to remain the greater part of the night with a maternity case, because the nurses that are on duty are not qualified to take the case. I am quite sure where the staff is well managed that they will be as punctual in the absence of the Superintendent as in her presence. The appointment is a very unsatisfactory one where the Infirmary is under the same administration as the workhouse, and there is an urgent need for reform. I hope most earnestly that the time will soon come when the Superintendent will be directly responsible to the doctor and the committee. Until then, the friction will go on increasing all over the country.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
SUPERINTENDENT.

The Infirmary, Winchester,
May 22nd, 1899.

NURSING IN THE "FORTUNATE ISLES."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The account in your last issue of the work of Mrs. Neill is most inspiring, and the fact that she attributes her present appointment as Government Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums to the enfranchisement of women in that country affords food

for reflection to all thoughtful nurses. How is it that nursing questions in this country receive such scant consideration? Surely because women are not a political force, and therefore their interests can be safely ignored. The position is a very serious one to all working women. Men who desire reforms in any given direction can enforce them, to some extent at any rate, by bringing pressure to bear on Members of Parliament, who cannot in these days afford to ignore a strong public feeling in favour of any reform. But with women it is different. They have no votes, their views are therefore of no importance politically; and, consequently, questions which concern their interests are shelved in favour of those concerning which the free and independent elector is agitating himself. It is therefore of supreme importance to women that they should obtain the Parliamentary Franchise. As Mr. Rhodes has told us, "the vote covers all." Why all this agitation in the Transvaal? Simply because Englishmen have no vote. Let those who sympathise with them (and we all do that), extend their sympathies to the disfranchised at home, the law-abiding, hard-working women. "Charity begins at home," and although we may feel strongly about the condition of things in the Transvaal, surely the first duty of Englishmen is to set their own house in order, before they find fault with their neighbours.

Every day I am more and more convinced that nursing reform, and indeed, reform in all women's professions and trades, is bound up with the question of Women's Suffrage. If we obtain this, our views on matters which vitally concern us, will be listened to with respect, but until this modicum of justice is accorded to us, all energy put into work for women in any direction is thrown away. We are pouring water into a bottle with a hole in the bottom; that is at least the belief I have arrived at, and from the articles I read in the NURSING RECORD, from time to time, your wide experience has apparently led you to the same conclusion.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A SUFFRAGIST-NURSE.

EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The notice which you direct to the advertisement of Dr. Lubbock, for a Probationer and Nurse Attendant, is timely, and once more points to the necessity of self-government for the Nursing Profession. Who is to teach the probationer her duties? Presumably, Dr. Lubbock; or the parlourmaid. But in either case, neither doctor nor parlourmaid being a trained nurse, they can hardly give efficient instruction in the duties of one. Another point to which I may direct attention is, that with ordinary mortals it is necessary, in order to train as a probationer, to do so in the wards of a hospital; how else is the "amiable young lady," who need have no experience in the nursing of the sick, to obtain it?

These are interesting points, and may bring home to the public mind the undoubted fact that in many instances medical men have no conception of what constitutes a nurse.

Yours obediently,
PROFESSIONAL.

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