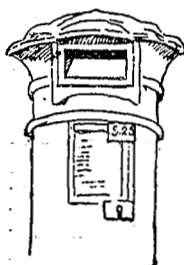


**Letters to the Editor.**

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.*

**AN IMPORTANT DETAIL.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—As you are always willing to give space in the columns of the NURSING RECORD for the discussion of all that makes for the improvement of nursing will you allow me to draw attention to the rough and ready way in which the patients' meals are served in many hospitals? Tray cloths are almost unknown, and the locker board does duty, as a rule, for a tray, while, water at dinner, and tea at tea time, are served in thick earthenware or even enamelled mugs. A man perhaps may not mind these things so much, but if there is one thing that a working woman is more particular about than another it is her cup of tea. She buys good tea, and she brews it with freshly boiled water in a brown earthenware pot, than which nothing makes better tea. It must therefore really be a trial to her when ill, to drink tea made in a tin urn and served in a mug about a quarter of an inch thick. Would it not be possible for some pains to be taken in serving the meals in hospitals? I have often been sorry to take to a sick patient food served in the way described. Of course, more dainty serving means more trouble, and more time, and this is a difficulty in a busy ward. It also means a greater outlay in china, and more care on the part of the person in charge of it, but surely it is well worth while to make the effort to introduce a little more refinement into this important detail, even if the service of food is entirely taken over—subject, of course, to the control of the Ward Sister—by a dietary department. I am inclined to think that this would be the best way of solving the difficulty, and also would afford the most efficient training for pupil nurses. As it is, the manner of "getting the teas" in hospitals at the present time only affords an example of how not to do it.

Yours faithfully,  
A LOVER OF REFINEMENT.

**OBSTETRIC TRAINING.**

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—Will you tell me if there is any hospital where I can obtain training in midwifery, in return for giving my services. I am a certificated three years' nurse, but I have had no experience in obstetric work, without which, it seems to me, my training is very incomplete. I cannot afford to pay a great deal, but I would willingly give some time if I could obtain good instruction and gain the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,  
CERTIFICATED NURSE.

[Possibly you might be able to make an arrangement with the Matron of one of the Poor Law Infirmaries.  
—Ed.]

**PRELIMINARY TRAINING.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—In advocating preliminary training for nurses, no doubt it has occurred to you that such a course, if arranged in a Central College, or organised in connection with one of our women's colleges, would prove most popular and useful to women who did not ultimately intend to enter the nursing profession, and that such a curriculum as that adopted in connection with the London Hospital does not teach any subject which would not be most useful to every woman in her future career, whether of a public or domestic nature. We women have no right to be as ignorant as the majority of us are of the elements of practical nursing, and a few months' drudgery and cleaning as a "special Pro" in a busy hospital is not the sort of work that is of much value in the home circle. We want to be able to take a course of systematic elementary theoretical and practical nursing, and so far I cannot learn that any institution meets our need.

Yours faithfully,  
"AN ELDER DAUGHTER."

**LADY CONSULS.**

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—The "Lady Consul" scheme of the R.B.N.A. is a professional danger, in so much as it means an attack upon the just authority of the Matrons of Hospitals. I believe the Matron of a country Home Hospital is responsible for the suggestion—the lady who issued the letter from the office of the R.B.N.A. some years ago, supporting the attempt of the Hon. Officers to place untrained lunatic attendants on the now defunct "Register of Trained Nurses," and to give these workers the privileges of membership of the Nurses' Association. As that scheme was snuffed out by the force of public indignation, upon the part of educated trained Matrons and nurses, I hope my fellow Matrons will also resist this second suggestion to undermine the rightful authority of the heads of the training schools. Most country Matrons of importance have resigned their membership of the Association to escape its clutches, and now that it is proposed by the Hon. Officers to begin an active campaign in the country on the lines which have caused such a turmoil in professional circles in London, the Matrons must grasp the significance of the movement, if they wish to maintain peace and discipline in their hospitals.

Yours,  
"A COUNTRY MATRON."

**WORKING AGAINST ODDS.**

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—You have pointed out a very real danger in connection with the public work of women by drawing attention to the great mental strain under which their work is frequently accomplished. The type of women who do the best work in the world are not the clumsy, coarse-fibred, unsympathetic ones, but those of keen sensibilities, in conjunction with strong convictions. But that such women suffer terribly, mentally, and physically, is evident. I cannot help thinking that the strain would be very greatly lessened if woman had her proper position before the law, and did not work against such heavy odds as she does now. At present her position is most unfair.

Yours faithfully,  
A WOMAN

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)