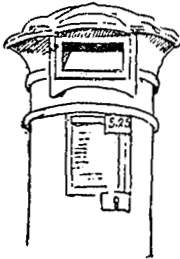


**Letters to the Editor.**

**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.*

**THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOSPITAL FUND.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—We have received complaints from annual subscribers to this fund that they do not know to whom to send their subscriptions. As it is impossible for us to send reminders to those who have given indirectly, may we ask you to make known through your paper that all subscriptions should be sent to the Honorary Secretaries, Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, Bank of England, London, E.C., by whom they will be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,  
SAVILE CROSSLEY,  
Honorary Secretary.

**HOW ARE WE TO SUCCEED?**

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

DEAR MADAM,—In asking the above question, I write on behalf of many nurses (including myself) who have suffered from gross injustice. I suppose I must refrain from mentioning the name of the hospital at which I was trained, also the name of its Matron. I do this, certainly, out of no kindly feeling towards the Matron, but for the sake of the Institution, though I may state that I write of an important County Hospital in the South of England. To state the case as briefly as possible, I must tell you that the training is a three years' course. The first two years are spent in the wards of the hospital, the third year is given for private nursing, this last named being compulsory, but that we are made aware of before signing our agreement. Of course (speaking of those for whom I write) after the Matron had told us that she considered we would make excellent nurses, and that we were suitable in every respect to go through our training, we not unnaturally dreamt of promotion (in the far future). We worked hard, and so far as we knew, always gave entire satisfaction. Most nurses are ambitious, and although we were quite reasonable, and knew that we could not all be promoted in our old hospital, we did at least expect the Matron to help us to suitable posts in other institutions, especially when good chances arose, and we felt we had worked hard, and had been told that we were good nurses and good women in every sense of the word, and when the Matron had always buoyed us up by giving her most sacred promise that she would help us when referred to. I must tell you that those nurses, who are promoted in this Hospital by the Matron, are only promoted because they have allowed themselves to be down-trodden by her, and because they fear her, not because

they are at all fit to manage a ward. In time we wearied of waiting, and immediately we resigned, all the Matron's promises were and are forgotten, as each time we try for suitable posts, instead of getting her kind help when she is referred to, she does her best to blast our nursing careers, and she has spoilt the chance of many a good woman, struggling to make her way in the world; so this is why I ask "How are we to Succeed?" when the Matron, through having an untruthful and unscrupulous disposition, fails to give her nurses the high characters she herself has always led them to believe they are possessed of.

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED.

[We shall say a word on this question next week. "One who has Suffered" will see by reading Mrs. Robb's paper and the discussion on it, which appears this week, how anxious many Matrons are to help the nurses trained under their supervision.—ED.]

**THE MIDWIFE QUESTION.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—The fact that the Royal British Nurses' Association was "represented" by a medical man—and, moreover, a "heart specialist," and not an obstetrician—on the deputation to the President of the Privy Council on the Midwives Question, points to the absurdity of the British Nurses position, and shows the danger of a great body of women being used without their consent to further forms of legislation of which numbers of them disapprove. How many of the three years' certificated members of the Royal British Nurses' Association approve of licensing women to practise midwifery after three months' experience in a lying-in hospital or district? The majority of these experienced women well know that such experience is dangerously insufficient, unless added to a thorough medical or nursing education; and, moreover, even the most thoughtless nurses realise the danger to personal liberty of restricting the practice of midwifery to women locally licensed by medical men, with whom they are necessarily in economic competition. It appears to me an impertinence that Dr. Bezly Thorne should attempt to "represent" trained nurses—never at any time has he been connected with a nurse training school—or to represent midwives, as he is not presumably engaged in midwifery practice, nor has he at any time been engaged in examining or controlling midwives. I was glad to observe that all the other women's societies on the deputation, with the exception of trained nurses, were represented by women, The Association for Compulsory Registration of Midwives by Lady Balfour of Burleigh and Mrs. Wallace Bruce; the National Union of Women Workers by Mrs. Henry Hobhouse, and the Women's Liberal Unionist Association by the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton. Trained nurses alone presumably have neither the brains nor status (or is it that they have not the personal freedom?) to express the opinion of their colleagues. Anyway, the sooner we have an association of nurses composed of persons who are presumably not *dumb* the better.

Yours truly,

"A TRAINED NURSE."

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