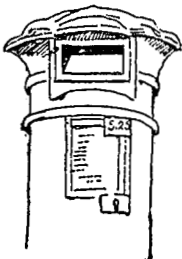


Letters to the Editor.

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 PROOF OF THE PUDDING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In spite of what you say about nurses helping themselves, it is most difficult for us to do so, and I do think that the Matrons have shown a terrible lack of enterprise, at least in this country, in taking so little true interest in the future careers of the nurses trained by them. I was present at the Nursing Congress to hear Mrs. Robb's Paper, and, surely, what the American Superintendents can do for their pupils, our Matrons can also accomplish. Anyway, I shall watch with interest to see if they do make any sort of move, and thus prove that they are really interested in those nurses, many of whom love and honour the hospitals in which they have received their training, and feel very bitterly being entirely cut off from all association with it when they pass out into other fields of work. Matrons may change, and a new one be appointed who "knows not Joseph," and one returns to the dear old school feeling very out in the cold, but if we could co-operate with our fellow-certificated nurses, and keep in touch with the Alma Mater, and give and take amongst ourselves, surely it would inspire that *esprit de corps* amongst nurses which seems so hard to inculcate in women. I was very thankful you touched one note in "Self-Help" last week—"rejoice to see the best woman win," even if she is trained in another school. We nurses (and Matrons too) do want a little more generosity towards one another. How grudging we are in our attitude towards those more brilliant and successful than ourselves. It may be very human, but it is very sad that nurses are so jealous, but it seems to me they are encouraged to be so by so much rival patronage. If they would only co-operate to help one another, instead of to help themselves, we should have a higher tone in the profession at large.

With gratitude for the "loyalty" of the RECORD to our individual and professional interests,

I am, dear Editor,
Yours truly,
"A REGISTERED NURSE."

A SCHOOL FOR SUPERINTENDENTS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The news that a School for Superintendents is about to be formed in America is good indeed, and will no doubt do more than anything else to raise the standard of nursing education in that country, and to ensure uniformity. All of us who have aspirations to become Superintendents must, I think, have felt the need of such a course. We arrive at the end of our three years in hospital well trained perhaps in our duties as nurses, but with no knowledge of what

is required of us as Superintendents, and no experience of the especial duties of the office. We are, some of us, I am afraid, apt to think, when we are armed with a certificate of three years' training, that there is no position, however responsible, to which we may not aspire; and we have to learn by experience how many things are required of us, for which we have had no preparation, and of which we are for the most part absolutely ignorant. Imagine a Committee, anxious to do the best for their institution, interviewing an aspirant for the Matron's post. "Have you had any experience in administrative work?" enquires the Chairman. "No." Have you been responsible for the housekeeping in any public institution? "No." Or had any experience in the systematic training of probationers in the theory and practice of their work? "No." The aspirant eventually leaves the Board room a sadder and wiser woman, and it is perhaps needless to say, does not obtain the post. But there is no doubt that a Committee may reasonably expect all the above qualifications—the question is how nurses are to obtain them. The point has so far received very little consideration from hospital authorities, who seem to consider that their obligations to their nurses end with the bestowal of a three years' certificate. But now that the three years' course is established, surely the time has arrived for the consideration of a further course of training for such nurses as have proved that they are likely to benefit by it to qualify them for higher posts. Cannot our training schools follow the example of the Americans, and do something in this direction?

Yours faithfully,
ASPIRANT.

BED-SORES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was so glad to see the article upon Bed-Sores in the 22nd July number of the NURSING RECORD. I am sorry to say that I have met more than one case of very bad bed-sores in private nursing, where the nurses had been trained at some of our most highly reputed hospitals. One was a case of an old lady eighty years of age. I was called in to help with the night nursing, as she, poor thing, had such bad nights, and could not rest, and the nurse was getting quite knocked up. I should like you to understand that it was a rich house where a nurse had only to ask and have. The doctor was most anxious about the back. The nurse was what most people would call up-to-date, educated, pretty, and most careful that her uniform should be spotless and perfect, and nails perfection, etc. But as to dressing her poor patient's back more than once in the twenty-four hours when the doctor looked at it, was a thing she did not at all think necessary, and I fear she looked on a nurse trained at the London Homoeopathic Hospital at the end of the Seventies as quite out of date, and when the dressing or sheet got a little rucked from turning about, and was put straight, and the back washed, powdered, etc., more than once in the twenty-four hours, I was the most fussy old nurse that ever lived. And yet I knew that she had been at one of our best training schools, where a bed-sore would have been looked upon as a disgrace. It is such nurses that bring dishonour on the profession. It is not that they do not know, but the love of self and idleness is often at the root of much evil.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)