

MALE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am so glad that the NURSING RECORD is bringing the subject of male nurses before its readers. It seems to me, after reading the most interesting article by Mr. T. V. Speer in your columns, that the "male nurses" in this country must realize that there is much to be desired as regards their opportunities of training. It has always been a most curious fact that, though there are no general training schools for male nurses in this country, yet the finished article abounds. Where he is educated, except at one special hospital, and in asylums, remains a mystery. Surely, the time has come when our military hospitals should be utilized as training schools for men. Much valuable material is lost under the present system, and also there is, I suppose, no question that at present our sick soldiers in the military hospitals in this country do not receive as skilful nursing care as the patients in our civil hospitals. This cannot be right. No doubt, when we have an Army Nursing Department with a Superintendent of Nursing at its head, at the War Office, this will be rectified. May the time soon come.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours sincerely,
ONE OF THE PUBLIC.

A WISE DECISION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Under the heading "Influenza," in the current number of the NURSING RECORD, you have touched upon my special grievance. Since August last I have been endeavouring to enter a hospital to get a thorough training in the work I love, and to obtain the necessary certificate, the value of which I am only just beginning to recognise, but owing to the large number of candidates at each hospital, I have so far been unsuccessful. Some matrons have refused my application because I am already in an institution, yet, my knowledge of nursing and institution life has only convinced me of the great necessity for the real training, such as you are always pointing out in your valuable paper. I have been a constant reader of the RECORD for seven years and scarcely ever read the last page without seeing some of the following sentences:—"First obtain your general training," or, "first get your three years' certificate," etc. But *how* is the question of to-day. In the present epidemic I have been offered a remunerative post on the private staff of a London institution, but having so thoroughly admired your loyalty to the nursing profession, and sincerely hoping your ambition for registration for nurses may one day be realised, I have refused, and will still wait and look forward to the time when I may be a possible participant in your success. Trusting I have not intruded too long on your patience,

Believe me, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
CROWDED OUT.

[We are very glad to hear from our correspondent that, as a matter of principle, she has refused the "remunerative post." We hope she will soon obtain a vacancy for a probationer in a general training school.—ED.]

THE NURSING OF DIPHTHERIA.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was extremely interested in the article published by you last week on the nursing of Laryngeal Diphtheria. I quite agree with the writer of the article that "there is no disease more fascinating to nurse than Laryngeal Diphtheria," but I have been out of hospital for some time, and in the days when I nursed it antitoxin was only just beginning to be used, and feathering the tube was considered both necessary and correct. I am therefore naturally glad to become acquainted with the present day treatment through the medium of your valuable journal. Articles describing practical methods of nursing are most useful both to those who are not now engaged in active work, for of course one always hopes that one may return to it some day, and also to private nurses, who find it difficult to keep up with the latest methods.

Wishing all success to you and the cause which you so ably advocate, during the coming year,

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,
ON THE SHELF.

HOSPITAL CABINS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It appears to me that Miss Mary Kingsley's suggestion that hospital cabins should be fitted on the mail steamers trading with West Africa, and that they should carry trained nurses, is an excellent one, and I hope it will be carried out. I would go even further, and say that I think all passenger steamers which, as a matter of course, carry a doctor, should carry at least one trained nurse. No one who has not been ill at sea, or who has not nursed a patient, can understand the discomfort entailed upon passengers who are seriously ill. To begin with, a ship is an exceedingly noisy place. The noises begin between three and four with the washing down of the decks, then the passengers begin to stir, and at the signal given by various breakfast bells troop down to the saloons; after that, tramping, chatter and music intermittently go on, with frequently a concert in the evening, and perhaps a dance, until somewhere near midnight—indeed it is frequently after that hour when the last confidential conversation and the bursts of merriment cease. It is all, no doubt, natural; but it is most prejudicial to the well-being of an invalid. So far as my observation goes, the authorities are as a rule unwilling to carry a sick person at all, this being no doubt partly because there is no suitable accommodation for him, there is no one to look after him, and they are sorely afraid of a death taking place on board, which is depressing to the other passengers. The one suggestion made as a rule in cases of serious illness, is, therefore, that the patient should be put ashore at some port at which the ship touches. It is easy to understand how a patient suffers on a voyage in an environment of this sort. As it often happens that patients are sent home from tropical countries on the score of health, it would be of the utmost benefit if a cabin could be fitted up for their accommodation on passenger ships, in the quietest position attainable, and where the services of a trained nurse could be had in the same way as those of the ship's doctor. This would be an improvement which, I am sure, many passengers would welcome.

Yours faithfully, "TRAVELLER."

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