

her opinion of the nurse applicants, was not called upon to state "all truths." For instance, to quote the regulations of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, we find that candidates are "required to produce" (c) A recommendation from a matron of a civil hospital at which she was trained, that she possesses the tact, temper and ability qualifying her for appointment to the nursing service reserve of the Army." (d) "Certificates of efficiency in medical and surgical nursing are to be produced from medical officers." (f) "A certificate of health" is also to be produced from "a qualified practitioner." So that the candidate having collected a sheaf of references, presumably presents them to the Committee in person. If a nurse is smart and *personable*, she will no doubt in the opinion of the surgeon she attends during his official visits to the ward, "be efficient in medical and surgical nursing." What does he know of her devotion to the sick, ward management, etc., when he is not present?—points which come under the personal observation of the Matron. Again, we have it on the word of a Matron that two of her staff have been selected for active service who are "constitutionally very delicate women, quite unfit for active service." Presumably those nurses obtained "medical certificates of health" from "qualified practitioners"! As Committees choose to ignore the invaluable knowledge of Superintendents of Nursing in these vital particulars—we agree with "A Sister of a London Hospital" that such superintendents would be placing themselves in a false position in expressing opinions on such details when not invited to do so. 4. Our correspondent's opinion that when the war is over will be the time to say whether the nurses selected have proved inefficient is irrelevant to the case. We plead for a just system of selection of nurses by competent persons, so that those sent out should be as efficient and suitable as possible. Why should "Tommy" run the risk of inefficiency? 5. How are the uninitiated to know which are our "best-hospitals" in the present chaotic condition of management and system of nurse-training? Presumably the Yeomanry Committee consider that one year's training at Guy's Hospital as a Lady Pupil is the *best* system, as they have adopted this standard in appointing their Matron and Night Sister. It was just to advise the uninitiated that in professional circles promotion by purchase—that is, obtaining a certificate after one year's light work in the wards, upon the payment of *fifty guineas*, a system still practised at Guy's and Middlesex Hospitals, and long since condemned by the more advanced and well organized schools—is *not* the best system, that we pleaded for professional representation on the Committee. 6. Here, again, we cannot agree with our correspondent. The War Office is not and never has been prepared with a sufficiency of nurses, either of Regular Sisters, or efficient Reserve, and the Committee of the latter organization have accepted on the list half-trained and uncertificated women, and even in the regulations issued on April 1st, 1899, fail to require that candidates shall hold a certificate of efficiency as *proof of training*. The truth is that an entirely new system is urgently necessary in the organization of our Army Nursing Service, and it is to be hoped that as soon as the war is over, the more experienced army nursing sisters and their civil colleagues will be given an opportunity of helping the Army Medical Department to organize the service on efficient and modern lines. The Army Nursing Reserve Committee has

proved itself quite incapable of performing this national work. *En passant*, we should like to confess that the issue of this journal containing our criticism of the Yeomanry Committee's management was sent to our correspondent under the impression she was, as so often stated in the press, a member of that Committee and not as a "society woman," the lady in question having earned for herself the reputation of a "woman worker." We would now ask her, and others who have time and influence, to study the "Nursing Question" and help us to effect the many reforms so urgently necessary for the efficient nursing of the sick of all classes by improving the curriculum of nursing education, and in obtaining for efficiently trained nurses some degree of just legal protection.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I observe that in the list of names sent to the press by the Yeomanry Hospital Committee that Miss P—— is described as of "St. Bartholomew's." This no doubt looks well, but the lady in question is not a graduate of this school, only having worked there for eighteen months. She therefore does not hold the three years' certificate of training of this leading training school, and the Committee have no right to infer that she does. These ladies have admitted many nurses with one and two years' certificates of training, and in having failed to maintain the highest qualification—the three years' standard—they have, of course, failed to realise how much injury they have done to those nurses who are striving to establish an efficient professional standard. Many nurses are grateful to you for having claimed the right of some professional help in the selection of the nurses provided by public subscription for our brave soldiers, everything of the very best should be theirs in return for their splendid devotion to duty.

Yours truly,

A GRADUATE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, AND A MEMBER OF THE "BART'S" LEAGUE.

CONGRESS OF CLUB WOMEN IN PARIS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MY DEAR MADAM,—It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the General Federation of Women's Clubs will hold a Congress in the Palais de la Femme, in Paris, on the 28th and 29th of June. Upon this occasion I hope that I may have the pleasure of meeting all the Honorary Members and foreign club women, and that you will aid us in making this Congress successful. It is the first time that the work has been presented in a foreign land, and while we realise that there will be some difficulties on account of language, yet we cannot miss this opportunity to give the women of France some demonstration of the great value of club work to all women. I hope that you will attend this Congress, and aid us in placing the work before the foreign women. We hope that it will be of interest to them on account of the work already begun in Europe. There will be, of course, a social side to this Congress, and it will be pleasant for us to meet upon this occasion. With greetings and best wishes for the New Year, believe me, my dear Madam,

Very sincerely yours,

REBECCA D. LOWE,

President General Federation Women's Clubs.
Atlanta, Ga., January 24th, 1900.

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