

wounded in South Africa, colonial nurses from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, to say nothing of "foreigners" as the Americans name Britishers in the States, and excluding nurses trained in Cape Colony and Natal, colonies suffering in the loss of blood and bullion for the good and salvation of England, from which we have received but scant care or "mothering" in the past. The truth is that the whole arrangements for the nursing of this war, have developed into a preserve for patronage, and it is to be hoped that the public will be truthfully informed of the conduct and capacity of many of those nurses selected by favour who have been sent to Cape Colony, to supersede many a sturdy well trained immune nurse already on the spot, left to starve, and absolutely beggared, by this war. Amongst those sent I know two girls who have "chronic" hearts and other physical failings. Again if the colonials are so immoral and undisciplined, would it not have been wise of the War Office to have been more careful in giving permission to some "society women" who are now posing as sick nurses at the front, and whose doings from all accounts are by no means the best example for the demoralized nurses bred in South Africa, or likely to instigate reform. At least they might have been careful that the most notorious of these fine untrained ladies were kept at home, as it will take more than posing as ministering angels to our wounded officers to whiten their reputations, either at home or abroad. In my opinion, respectable trained nurses should not be compelled to associate with women of this stamp. Thanking you for your championship of my despised countrywomen,

I am yours,
"AN INDIGNANT COLONIAL."

SOCIETY WOMEN AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The remarks of "An Officer's Wife" are not a whit too strong. I learn that all the first-rate hotels in Cape Town are crammed with "society women" and their daughters, and that the show of Parisian "confections" and blaze of diamonds would outbegum the Queen of Sheba. This, no doubt, is the result of all the great *partis* having gone to the front, so that our brave defenders are in a somewhat helpless position between the Boer bullets and the shafts of Eros. Joking apart, this spectacle is somewhat disgusting.

Yours truly,
"AN OFFICER'S SISTER."

["Wheresoever the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered together."—Ed.]

MIDWIFERY EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read, with much interest, the letter of "M.D." in your last issue upon the above subject, in which, as a trained nurse and a midwife, I am deeply interested. I entirely agree with your correspondent that women always have, and always will, attend the bulk of confinements among the poor, and I fully appreciate the work done by the London Obstetrical Society in bringing some sort of order out of chaos with regard to the training of midwives. But because of this very fact I should like to see this society go a step further and require of

nurses—I say nurses, for midwifery is but a branch of nursing, as it is of medicine—evidence of general as well as of special training. Any other attitude seems most illogical from medical men who will not countenance specialists in their own ranks. The trouble seems to be that M.D. is afraid that a thoroughly qualified woman will prove a serious opponent to the local medical practitioner, while the one with a three months' smattering does not interfere with him. I hope we have got beyond the stage when one woman holding the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society would indulge in "evil practices," but women practising midwifery should surely be a positive as well as a negative good, and, at least, as well qualified as the hospital nurse who comes more directly under the direction of the medical man, and who moreover is only concerned in carrying out orders, while the midwife undertakes the grave responsibility of diagnosis. I do not myself think that the trained nurse holding the L. O. S. would be as likely to invade the province of a medical man as the three months' midwife, for the former would know her limitations, while the latter often does not, but in any case I do not think the risk of this can be considered a valid reason for sending out the less competent woman to the poor. The question is what is best for them. It is significant that in the minds of thoroughly qualified nurses holding the L. O. S. certificate the opinion is unanimous as to the necessity for general training.

Faithfully yours,
L. O. S.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was amused at the outspokenness of your correspondent "M.D." last week. Why should midwifery nurses be ill-educated in the interests of the general practitioner? Of course we all know where "the milk in the cocoanut" comes in, and that all this hue and cry against midwives means, translated, an agitation for protecting the general practitioners who are afraid that their pockets will be injured. How do I know it? Well, if the public will consider who are the bitter opponents of midwives they will, I think, share my opinion. The consultants, the obstetricians at the head of their profession, to a man recognise and value the services of midwives. The opposition comes from the small general practitioners. Comment is surely superfluous.

Yours faithfully,
"TRUTH AT ANY PRICE."

A PERTINENT QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—I much admired the moral courage of your correspondent, who refused a well paid post in a private nursing institution in London because she felt that she ought to get a proper training, but the point which presents itself forcibly to one's mind is, how many more untrained or inadequately trained persons have received the same offer from this institution, and how many of them have exhibited her sense of honour? The point is one for the public to note, because these same untrained persons are, no doubt, being supplied to them as qualified nurses, at the rate of £2 2s. a week.

Yours truly,
AN OUTSPOKEN PERSON.

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