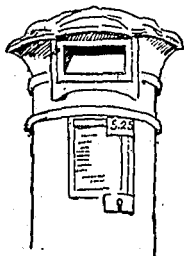


**Letters to the Editor.**

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.*

**STATE REGISTRATION FOR NURSES.**

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

Dear Madam,—I think Miss Poole is right in her belief that the present is an opportune moment to urge the State Registration of Nurses. The public is at present interested in nursing matters. Its attention has been directed to and fixed on them of late, and so far as I can learn it is fully alive to the injustice which well trained nurses suffer at the hand of the bogus nurse. The donning of our caps and aprons by all sorts and conditions of folk in South Africa has directed attention to the indignities which we suffer, and the dangers to which the sick are exposed. We shall do well to make the most of the present opportunity, for the attention of the British public is not fixed for long upon the same point, and if we let this opportunity slip it may be long before we have such another. I think that Miss Poole's suggestion to send petitions to the Matrons of Nurse Training Schools which may be signed in favour of State Registration by themselves and their staffs is excellent. Only I would go a little further. Such petitions should be signed by certificated nurses, and the certificated nurses who remain on the staff of their training school are comparatively few. I would venture to suggest therefore that the Matrons should be invited either to furnish a Central Committee with the names and addresses, when known to them, of all the certificated nurses trained in their school, or else that the Matrons themselves should be asked to communicate with these nurses. It would involve some trouble, but it is trouble which anyone really anxious to obtain registration would, I believe, willingly take.

Yours faithfully,  
A BELIEVER IN REGISTRATION.

**THE ESSENCE OF NURSING.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—Every true nurse must have been distressed to read Mr. Rudyard Kipling's evidence given before the South African Commission with regard to the nursing of enteric cases, namely:—"It should be remembered that there was no enthusiasm about nursing typhoid cases. The wounded were preferred. You could feel that enterics were not as interesting as the wounded."

This criticism, if correct, must be a matter of shame to the nursing profession. What do we become nurses for? Is it in search of excitement, self-glorification, and possible Red Crosses, or is it that we may give skilled help to suffering humanity, when and wherever such help is needed? I have no desire to compare medical and surgical nursing, to the disparagement, or the exclusive praise, of either. I have had considerable experience in both branches, and

appreciate the value of the work done in each, but I do say that the nurse who is not as keen to care for a case of enteric fever as for the most interesting operation case lacks the true spirit of nursing, and is blind to its motive power, "patience, and abnegation of self and devotion to others." We must indeed be hard of heart, if, knowing as we do how much may be done for an enteric case, how the difference between good and bad nursing makes all the difference between life and death, we are not enthusiastic to render the service which is in our power. If we have learnt the first lesson of our profession, we have surely learnt a hatred of disease, and have adopted an attitude of uncompromising hostility to it in all its forms. Disease and suffering appear to us to be evil things between which and the trained nurse there must ever be war to the knife. It is this feeling—I am not discussing higher considerations—which enables us to handle the most loathsome diseases without flinching. Beyond our desire to help the sufferer, is the knowledge that we are in the presence of our bitter enemy, we see before us his handiwork, and we see mentally, through the disease, the human body as it should be, fair and sound. All the "fight" within us is aroused, we will give our enemy no quarter, we will fight him inch by inch, and, God helping us, we will beat him, he shall not retain his hold over our patient. If we have not learnt this, we have not learnt the A B C of our profession, and had better go back to school, or else adopt another line of work. But, the lesson once learnt, touches as keenly our relations to the patient suffering from enteric fever, or dysentery, as the one who has been wounded by a bullet or shell. Both are sick and in pain, needing the help which our training enables us to give. It will be an ill day when we demand that our patients must be interesting as well as ill before we are willing to afford them professional aid. The one sure passport to our services must be evidence of the need of them. This is surely the essence of all true nursing.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
HEARTILY ASHAMED.

**VISIONS.**

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

Dear Madam,—Your visions of the future, embodied in your most interesting and graphic "Editorial" of last week, must appeal to all nurses who have the welfare of their profession at heart. There must be many who see what strides the science of surgery has made since the incorporation of its College who wish for their own much-loved profession a similar advantage. I, for one, sincerely hope that your visions with regard to the National College of Nurses of England may speedily be no longer visions, but a substantial practical reality, for I am sure that such a College would do much to raise the standard of nursing, and therefore to benefit nurses, and those whom it is their duty and pleasure to serve, namely, their patients.

Yours truly,  
A DREAMER OF DREAMS.

**DELEGATES FOR THE BUFFALO CONGRESS.**

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

Dear Madam,—The suggestion made by you at the Matrons' Council Conference and printed in the RECORD last week that Nursing Schools and Nurses'

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