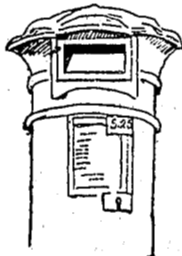


## Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES. &amp;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.*

## ARMY NURSING REFORM—PEGGING AWAY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The news in last week's Editorial that more female nursing is to be utilised for the comfort of our sick soldiers at Netley, proves once more the wisdom of "pegging away," and it must be very satisfactory to you that the nurses' views on Army Nursing are being recognised as the right ones. At the same time, it is a pity that the War Office should disclaim all necessity for medical re-organization, and attempt to create a satisfactory system of military nursing by making small concessions—piece by piece. The authorities must go to the root of the evil if the new system is to be of satisfactory growth, and nothing short of the Nursing Department and Head Executive Nursing Officer will in the end prove satisfactory. Such a reform must be made in the end, and why not institute it *now*? We all read Mrs. Andrews' Paper on the subject with great interest and appreciation.

Yours faithfully,

"AN ARMY NURSING SISTER."

## THE NEW CENTURY CELEBRATIONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your paper at the Matrons' Council Conference has set me longing to be present at Buffalo next year, but how is it to be done? Fifty pounds—where are nurses, poorly paid as we are, to get such a sum? It seems almost impossible. I am the more anxious to be shown the way, as I have friends in the States and hear the Pan-American Exhibition to be held in Buffalo from May to October is going to be "immense," and that the American Nurses have taken up the Congress idea very warmly.

Yours truly,

Cardiff.

EMILY MORRIS.

[We quite realise the fact that very few nurses can afford to spend fifty pounds, or indeed half that sum, to enable them to attend the New Century Nursing Celebrations in the States next year; but we have every hope that many nurses will make an effort to club together and send a representative, and as soon as the holidays are over the Matrons' Council will form a sub-committee to take the matter into consideration. We hope all special branches of nursing will find funds to pay the expenses of one expert to deal with their special interests. Thus the fever nurses working under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, who are well paid, should be able to select several delegates for this purpose. The fact is that where there is a will there is a way, and we must take counsel together and make the most of our opportunities. Because a thing is difficult that does not make it *impossible*.—ED.]

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

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

DEAR EDITOR,—Hearty congratulations on the Programme and Constitution of the International Council of Nurses; it is splendid; and with such a list of Councillors time only is required to overcome the disinclination of the less progressive countries to take a part in such a good work. Two years ago, when I resigned my membership of the R.B.N.A. after that black December day, everything seemed almost hopeless for nurses in England. But the pluck and tenacity shown by the few Matrons who realised the true position of affairs in the R.B.N.A., and refused to "give us away," has inspired us with new hope, and now that the Matrons' Council has shown itself so alive to our professional interests, and our own public spirited Matrons have co-operated with the leaders of nursing thought all over the world—there can be but one result to their union—the ultimate triumph of the avocation of nursing as a well defined and legally controlled profession for educated women. Thanks also for the RECORD's steady stand, without which medium these great results could not possibly have been accomplished.

Yours,

A GRATEFUL OLD PUPIL.

## THE EDUCATION OF MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see that attention is at last being drawn to the necessity for including some provision for the training and education of midwives into any Bill introduced into Parliament for their control. This is most essential in the interests both of the public and of well-trained midwives. Surely, moreover, if this point is carefully considered, any such Bill must resolve itself into a Bill for the registration, not of specialists of any class, but of trained nurses generally, for if the evidence of the highest class of midwives, namely, those who are trained nurses, were taken, overwhelming testimony would I am sure be forthcoming that a three months' special training is not adequate to qualify a woman for the great responsibility which devolves upon her as a midwife, an opinion supported by a large number of the medical profession. Midwives should have a general education, and so we come back to the old position, the necessity for a Bill for the registration of medical, surgical and obstetric nurses. Their training, in short, should, in their branch of work, be conducted on the same lines as that of a medical practitioner in his. We often hear it advanced against the registration of midwives that they only have three months' training, while doctors have five years. It has always seemed to me a very unfair argument, for, of course, most people at once assume that this refers to the midwifery education of medical practitioners; while, as a matter of fact, few medical students spend more than three months over their midwifery, and they are in England only required to see twenty cases, and even these twenty have not long been demanded of them. It is, indeed, one of the difficulties in the way of a higher standard of education for midwives that it is impossible to demand that they should see more cases than are required of medical students. Medical men include in their five years their general education. To

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