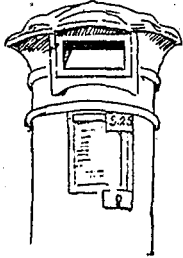


## Letters to the Editor.

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.*

## THE CROYDON CONTROVERSY.

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

Dear Madam,—There must be a very large number of our profession watching with interest the decision of the Croydon Infirmary Board with regard to the Matron's rights and prerogatives.

All persons of business capabilities who have been in positions of responsibility as to the work done by under-workers, must surely have come across many who are not satisfactory workers, though not necessarily inefficient.

This can be realised among nurses where the work done to meet the eye of the medical men is most highly creditable. The qualities which go to make up a true, worthy, high standard of nurse are many, and if I may say so, only to be judged by those who are in a position to watch the daily, hourly, and hidden performance of the work done. There are also a great number of smart nurses, clever, intelligent, attractive women who are very well able to do the actual nursing of almost any case, medical or surgical in such an able manner, that the doctor may honestly praise her work for him enthusiastically. Yet there are many such women who do not deserve the name of "nurse," or the certificate of a training-school. Some of these women are disloyal to those in authority, unfair in the apportioning of work of a tedious and uninteresting character to their subordinates, not wholly to be relied upon in their accounts of patients to medical officers, and yet because of their intelligence are able to ride high and dry over those who are more honest but less cunning and intelligent. Their great pleasure is in outwitting those who could and should report them to the authorities did they not know the treatment which would be meted out to them by their Committee in many instances for so doing.

I have met personally such women both during my training and since I have been a Matron. These unworthy ones have it in their power to make a Matron's life an intolerable burden to her in most cases, consequently the hardworking, faithful head nursing official has to endure silently the studied but often intangible insubordination of one or more nurses in the service of the hospital. For to report to her Board every case of insubordination gains for her the credit of being a hard and overbearing ruler.

Therefore much has to be borne silently in the hope that time will influence for good the unruly one, if patience and forbearance be shown. When the end is not achieved by the time the curriculum of training is reached and the unruly ones continue to harass and annoy in a thousand petty ways and at the same time propagate a wrong spirit among the morally weaker workers in the institution, it is only right such un-

christian, untrustworthy women, should not be given the certificate of any training school and so be palmed off upon the public as disciplined, highly trained nurses, worthy to perform the noblest of women's work.

I fully recognize that it is useless to expect to find any institution worked only by a picked set of workers, but it should be the aim of those of, and outside, the nursing profession to influence women who take up this mode of life, to have a higher moral standard than is generally considered necessary for less sacred and less unselfish labour. It is in consequence of the worthlessness of testimonials and certificates which are given and signed as a matter of course at the end of a curriculum of training that we hear on all sides of the unworthiness of many of our members when they enter houses as private nurses. They are too often anything but the blessing and comfort they should be.

Many Matrons have, to save trouble, signed certificates, thankful to be so easily able to rid themselves of objectionable though, perhaps, capable women. Some people will argue that Matrons must be bound down so as to prevent them from administering unfair and harsh treatment to their workers. I think the late burst of spontaneous enthusiasm for Matrons on the part of Nurses called forth by Nurse Dowling's unhappy statements goes far to prove that between Matrons and Nurses there is a strong bond of union and sympathy.

Believe me to be a sincere well-wisher to all worthy nursing members,

2nd December, 1900.

A MATRON.

## UNION IS STRENGTH.

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

MADAM,—I am, indeed, pleased with the letters appearing in your last issue relative to the contest between Miss Rogers and her Board of Guardians, and that of "A Grateful Charge Nurse" is, I think, most apropos. I do not know whether the Executive of the R.B.N.A. will or will not render legal assistance, but I certainly think it is the kind of case in the which, if the union is worth anything to its members, they should do all in their power to see that Miss Rogers has justice done her. As "an ounce of help is worth a pound of pity," I suggest that you open your columns for receiving subscriptions to a fund to help her in her legal expenses. If you will do this I will send my mite towards the same.

I am, yours,

A GUARDIAN.

[We sympathise sincerely with Miss Rogers, and we advise our correspondent to communicate with the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which society Miss Rogers has been a member for many years. It is the duty of this Association to help its members, and it would be more in order that an appeal should be inserted in its official organ than in this journal—especially as a precedent has been established by the Hon. Officers, of using the funds to pay legal expenses incurred by medical members.—ED.]

## NURSING IN INDIA.

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

MADAM,—As so many nurses are ambitious to nurse in India, perhaps a few words from one who has given it a short trial may be of interest. I do not consider

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