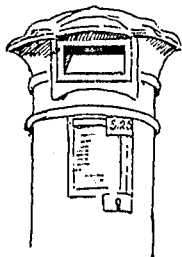


Letters to the Editor.

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.

A SCAPEGOAT.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am, indeed, thankful to you for the interest you have taken in my case, and also for opening your columns for subscriptions towards my expenses. These, I may tell you, are about £30, so that whilst the £2 sent you by the six subscribers is most kind on their part and helpful to me, I should have been thankful if more had responded to your appeal.

I am sure that though I have had to resign I have done much to improve the status of trained superintendent nurses in workhouses, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that though every effort was made to discredit me the chairman of the Nursing Committee had to acknowledge that they had no fault to find and that I was a good nurse. You will also be glad to know that I have compelled the Guardians to acknowledge my right to the return of my superannuation contribution.

Again thanking you and your readers, and expressing the hope that others will assist me,

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

MARGARET F. ROGERS.
(Late Superintendent Nurse,
East Preston Union).

COUNTY HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have greatly enjoyed reading Miss Mollett's outspoken articles on County Hospitals, and am glad she has not found House Surgeons so obnoxious as so many of your correspondents appear to have done. We know these young men fresh from school (medical) are often placed in a false position by being made responsible for nursing management; and, in consequence, for the personal conduct of the nurses, than which nothing can be more wrong. At the same time I have been Matron of a County Hospital for many years, and in that time have had the pleasure of working with a succession of really good fellows—earnest workers—many of whom have become personal friends. I think it is very necessary that the Matron of a County Hospital should be a well-educated woman of the world who knows how to deal with men, she should be of a "certain age," and thus have gained wide experience of affairs. Such women seldom come to blows with the house-surgeons and physicians, and as a rule have no difficulty in maintaining discipline, but a popularity-hunter can never make an efficient administrator; pluck and frank dealing can overcome most domestic difficulties; we do need women with moral courage as Matrons.

Yours, very truly,

A COUNTY MATRON.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—If all Matrons were as sensible as Miss Mollett appears to be from her writings there would be much less friction between Matrons and Sisters. Many troubles in hospitals arise from Matrons absorbing responsibility which rightly belongs to the Sister of the ward. Some Matrons with narrow views of life fidget one to fiddle strings about trifles, and never extract the best work from the nursing staff. Why, because a woman becomes a Matron, does she at once become an infallible being? It would be so much better if women were used to responsibility and authority in general life, they would not then be so autocratic when they get a brief spell of power in hospitals. It will be a good thing when Matrons are specially trained for their duties, perhaps only suitable women will then be chosen. Matrons must be *large-hearted* if they are to succeed in the future. The old conventual days are over.

Yours sincerely,

A WARD SISTER.

BELOW THE SALT.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your editorial comment on the above-named letter in your issue of 16th March, caught my eye; and I beg sincerely to agree with you that it is indeed a sad letter.

For it is the despairing cry of one who is lost in a wilderness of rubbish, without stars to guide or compass to steer by, and I write to ask that if you think well you will hand her the enclosed, as she is evidently a slave without knowledge of strength and freedom.

She imagines herself an animal with the hypothetical possibility of a soul, whereas she is a soul functioning for a short time through an animal body; she imagines herself in a world made by man, whereas man never made anything half so large, and has not as yet even understood himself.

Tell her that the noble profession of nursing is in no danger of degradation while those who follow it know themselves and do not fail to keep in the path of love and kindness to all; that she alone is above others, who is humble with all, forgetful of self, remembering only the good that can be done.

Go into the servants' hall. Why not? Are they not my brothers and sisters? May it not be an opportunity for good which will not come again if I neglect it?

Not an opportunity to sermonize them after the manner of Churchianity or any other commercial system whose object is wealth and power, not justice, truth and love.

Nor to talk goody-goody that false wordy sentimental Christianity which has been overdone (it should never have been done at all) till the very name of religion stinks in the nostrils of the people.

But to infuse almost insensibly into their thoughts and conversation the idea to which they are now strangers, that there are some things in the universe worth thinking about besides fashion, dress, wealth and food, and that there are even some things worth doing besides aping the follies and extravagancies of the ignorant and selfish rich.

Tell her that in the great Universe of God there is one Master, and all the rest are brethren.

Faithfully yours,

17th March, 1901.

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