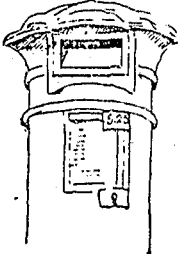


Letters to the Editor.

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 PROFESSIONAL DANGER.

Devonshire Villa,
East Grinstead.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—Enclosed is the reply from Secretary of R.B.N.A. to my note of the 22nd inst. It is an unbusiness-like reply to a plain question.

Yours sincerely,
ROSINA A. GRAHAM.

July 24th, 1901.

[COPY.]

Royal British Nurses' Association,
10, Orchard Street,
Oxford Street,
London, W.

July 23rd, 1901.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to inform you that the proceedings under which a member's name can be removed from the Roll of Members are governed by the Bye-Laws of the Association, which can be had on application, and that a member's name would not be otherwise removed from that or any other list published by the Association without her request.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,

G. A. LEIGH
(Secretary),
p.p. M.B.

To Miss Rosina Graham.

[The reply sent to Miss Graham is in the handwriting of a clerk, and not even signed in that of the Secretary, Miss Leigh. But no doubt this is what "Mrs. Brown" would aptly describe as the "hotumbar" or rightful method in which to reply to a communication from a mere Nurse member of the R.B.N.A., especially one who has held the position of co-Matron!

This reply is also impertinent and evasive, and quite in accordance with the past traditions of the manner in which the clerks in the office have always been encouraged to ignore or insult the professional women who pay their salaries, by Mr. Fardon and his colleagues.

Now the unscrupulous system of getting rid of any nurse member who dares to question the management, or express an opinion, is quite apparent.

A nurse, as in the case of Miss Macvitie, writes to the Secretary desiring her letter to be brought before the Executive Committee, as she has a perfect

right to do. She is not here threatened with removal from the Roll—as in the famous Barlow case—but ignoring her plainly-written request, Miss Leigh, the Secretary, writes and enquires "if she is to understand that she wishes her name removed from the Roll." How ingenuous! Presumably, this little trick has before now accomplished its purpose—and all that it is necessary to report to the Executive Committee by the Secretary is the formal resignation of the said member. Miss Macvitie, did not fall into this mean little trap, and the answer to Miss Graham's letter makes it quite plain that in suggesting resignation to a member and requiring that "I shall be obliged if you will let me have a reply by return of post, in order that I make this omission," the Secretary, Miss G. A. Leigh, was acting in a very irregular manner, and overriding the bye-laws of the Corporation, which state that the Executive Committee alone has the power to remove a nurse's name from the list. But Miss Leigh has been long enough in the R.B.N.A. office to know that so far as nurse members are concerned the bye laws are a dead letter, and the whole working of the Association a complete farce. The medical Honorary Secretary, Mr. Fardon, keeps the "Ass" well in hand."—ED.]

THE R.B.N.A. AND THE MIDWIFE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have read all your articles and Miss Macvitie's letters on the R.B.N.A. and the Midwife Question, and quite agree with all you say—but one thing is as clear as daylight—the London Obstetrical Society had better give up issuing Pass Certificates for Examinations in Midwifery—or at least taking money for them, as they are not of any legal value. I have one of the "Diplomas" issued before 1895, in which I am described as a "skilled midwife," and I agree with Miss Macvitie that Mr. Fardon and his Council have no right to depreciate the value of this "Diploma" by calling it a "Certificate." The wisest plan will be for the R.B.N.A. to "drop" the "Midwives' List" like a hot potato; it will develop into a "burning" question next year when the Midwives' Bill agitation is resuscitated.

Yours truly,
DIP. L.O.S.

THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Many will sympathise with Mrs. Marriner, and will also agree with her in making a firm stand on questions of discipline in a nursing institution. I once suffered much in the same way. A nurse on my staff (a home hospital) refusing to be treated by the appointed physician, and going without my knowledge to the out-patient department of a large hospital near by, and there arranging with the attending physician to become an in-patient without reporting the circumstances to me, and because I objected to such lack of courtesy I was subjected to objectionable letters and various annoyances. It seems odd medical etiquette does not meet these cases somehow, but it doesn't.

Yours truly,
"EVER GRATEFUL."

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