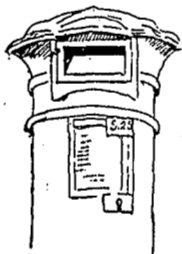


**Letters to the Editor.**

**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*

**THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to see you drew attention in your last issue to what appeared to me to be a mistake (though after all only in a matter of detail) in the admirable scheme for the formation of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service—namely, that nurses should be bound by a three years' agreement. It seems so like beginning one's training over again, and also, both on the side of the Nursing Service and the nurse herself, it seems to me it would be so much better that the engagement could be terminated by a month's notice on either side. I say a month because it is usually evident that a longer notice than this is a mistake. In the first place, if the nurse wishes to apply for a post she is disqualified for most if she cannot be free for three months. On the other hand, if the Service desires to terminate an engagement, the three months' rule is generally a mistake. A dissatisfied or unsuitable nurse can do a good deal of harm in this time by stirring up discontent. On both counts, therefore, I should uphold the one month's notice. I observed that you approve of requiring a ten years' agreement, but if I may venture to say so, a bond of this length is longer than most nurses would care to enter into. Few, indeed, would be in a position to pledge themselves for this length of time. To many even the necessary three or four years of hospital training seems a somewhat long term to bind themselves for. Not that they are not quite willing to give it, but there are sometimes home duties which cannot be ignored. If they undertake a contract they must of course fulfil it; this all honorable women recognize. At the same time it makes them all the more careful of entering into it. I am glad to notice that candidates for appointment in the new Service are to be put on three months' probation. It is a necessary and most wise regulation.

I am,  
Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
CERTIFICATED NURSE.

**HISTORY OF SIR RICHARD CALMADY.**

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

MADAM,—From personal knowledge I can confirm your reviewer's statement that Calmady is the true pronunciation, and I should imagine that Lucas Malet would follow it, as one of her intimate friends, who read the book before publication, called the name "Calmady" in speaking of it to me several months ago.

To the public, the name of this old Devonshire family may recall the beautiful "Calmady children" of Sir Thos. Lawrence, a tiny girl smiling round at her baby sister. It is a picture that in various styles, and under various fancy titles, is perhaps more reproduced than any other of children, excepting some by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

I remain, Madam,  
Yours obediently,  
DEVONIENSIS.

**A PRACTICAL POINT.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I assure "Cleanliness," in reply to her letter in your last issue, that after considerable experience of the homes of almost every grade of the poor, I have come to the conclusion that personal and domestic cleanliness are like many other things, far more a matter of education and temperament than of circumstances. Extreme poverty, with its attendant drudgery and sordidness, may be met with in almost every class of life, and it is because I have seen how difficulties in maintaining cleanliness are overcome by the more educated in extremely poor circumstances, that I attach so much importance to education on such points. Those of the lower classes with the least degree of education are far more wasteful, and blind to facilities than are those who have availed themselves of the teaching given in schools, in penny weekly papers, by district nurses, etc. That domestic cleanliness in the homes of the poor must always be a relative term, I admit; but I cannot see any great difficulty over the attainment of strict personal cleanliness.

I think it was Miss Nightingale who first pointed out that by half a pint of water properly used the body may be as properly cleansed as by an ordinary bath. Overcrowded houses demand condemnation and remedy quite as urgently as does lack of cleanliness.

I have found the lower classes singularly apathetic with regard to both conditions. Discontent they have in plenty, but it is seldom "divine discontent." I do not wish to appear hard or unsympathetic with regard to the difficulties of the poor. On the contrary I feel the deepest sympathy for them; but I also feel that many of their privations are due to their own improvidence, indulgence in unsuitable food and clothing, and lack of knowledge and system in the management of their homes. One cannot hope to see all this altered except by education of the right sort, *i.e.*, that which will enable the poor to help themselves.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
DAILY TUB.

**TRAINED NURSES' DAY.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—How much one would like to have been present on Trained Nurses' Day, and to see the presentation of the Matrons' Council badge to Miss McIsaac by our President. There is unity of aim, and cordial good fellowship, between the Matrons' Council and the American Superintendents, and it was a happy inspiration to demonstrate it on this occasion.

A MEMBER OF THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)