



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 CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

HELP FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—We earnestly appeal for help to enable the Committee to maintain the Hospital in a state of efficiency and to continue the benefit which it confers on the large body of sick poor in the important district in which the building is situated.

The financial condition of the institution is a source of constant anxiety to the Committee. The year commenced with a debt of £9,166, which has now been reduced to £7,000. But this reduction has been effected by the sale of a portion of the small available funded property, and has therefore resulted in a diminution of the permanent income of the institution.

The improved accommodation afforded by the new building in course of erection through the munificence of Sir Blundell Maple is of immense advantage to the patients, but the new Hospital is much more expensive to maintain on account of its largely-increased area and numerous costly appliances. Every new wing that is opened causes further expense both for furniture and maintenance.

The number of patients treated at the Hospital in 1901 showed an increase of 5,000 on the number of patients in 1900.

Through these causes the annual expenditure has risen to £25,000, although the most rigid economy consistent with efficiency is exercised. The income which can be relied upon is only £8,000, and the Committee are compelled to seek for subscriptions and donations to meet the deficiency in order that the absolutely essential work of the Hospital may be continued.

The Committee will gladly receive donations for furnishing the south-east wing, which will shortly be completed.

Beds or cots may be endowed and named in perpetuity as desired. Payments for the purpose may be made in one sum or by instalments.

BEDFORD, President.

MONKSWELL, Treasurer.

HENRY LUCAS, Chairman of Hospital Committee.

WALTER BAILY, Vice-Chairman of Hospital Committee.

Contributions will be gratefully received, and may be forwarded to the Bankers, Messrs. Coutts and Co., 59, Strand, W.C.; or to the Secretary, Mr. Newton H. Nixon, at the Hospital.

ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—After careful study of the Regulations for the above Service, the first impression produced is—Do the heads of the R.N.N.S. seriously

wish to deter trained, experienced, self-respecting women from entering the Service? The next, What class of women will volunteer for service under such rules? Most nurses will agree that self-respect is a necessary quality in attendance upon male patients, and adds appreciably to their success in nursing them. These rules first place the Head Nurse and Nursing Sisters "immediately after the surgeons," and then proceed to debase them; see "Duties of Head Sister," who, after reading through to the very end, one finds left without a scrap of authority.

"Duties of Nursing Sisters" place them entirely under the Medical Officers, both as to work and hours of duty, and they are required to "be assisted in the wards by stewards and attendants of the sick berth staff," to the latter of whom they will "give such instruction as may be necessary." This is the first introduction of the male nurse, and it is not an agreeable one. Further on the Nursing Sisters have to instruct these men in every detail of nursing. When a patient dies the "Ward Master" is introduced and takes charge, he being responsible for the discipline, the cleanliness, and the furniture of the ward. At this point a curious mixture occurs. The Nursing Sister "is to report without delay" what she may consider "neglect of duty" or "impropriety of conduct on the part of sick berth attendant or patient," to the Ward Master first, and afterwards to the Head Sister in detail. Nursing Sisters are permitted to make "reports or suggestions relating to their duties for consideration of the Medical Director General." Then follows an insulting paragraph about presents and letters from patients or their friends.

All things considered, much friction may be expected, and the Royal Naval Hospitals will, as regards nursing and discipline, resemble the Poor Law Infirmarys as they at present exist.

Yours obediently,

ROSINA GRAHAM.

GLASGOW CO-OPERATION OF NURSES.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—Many Glasgow people have read your remarks on the proceedings of the Committee of the Co-operation of Trained Nurses, and are in sympathy with your views. I am sending you a Report, by which you will see that all nurses are selected by a Medical Committee, although the Executive is composed of lay persons and nurses as well as doctors. This Executive reserves power to itself to "admit new members," but practically they are chosen by the Medical Committee. In these days, when it is acknowledged that doctors are not necessarily nurses, surely it would be better that the sub-committee for selection should be representative of the three interests involved—nursing, medical, and public—or, as in our well-organised training-schools, the members should be selected by the Lady Superintendent and directly approved and elected by the Executive Committee. There are other regulations in the Constitution of the Glasgow Nurses' Co-operation which are unsatisfactory and might be improved. Perhaps you might touch on them in your valuable paper.

Yours truly,

CALEDONIA.

[We have criticised the Constitution in another column.—Ed.]

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