



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.

MURDEROUS MILLINERY.

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

MADAM,—It is quite certain that nothing but legislation can now save whole species of beautiful and harmless birds from being exterminated for a foolish fashion, and that it is useless to appeal any further to the good feelings of women.

There recently appeared in the *Times* a letter by Lord Medway, in which the question was asked, "Why does no young member of Parliament bring in a Bill making it illegal to exhibit in a shop window a hat decorated with feathers, except those of the ostrich and birds killed for food?"

Will you permit me to state that the "Bill for the Regulation of the Sale and Use of Feathers as Millinery," which has been drafted by the Humanitarian League, would to a large extent effect the object which Lord Medway desires.

I shall be glad to send a copy of the Bill to any one who desires it.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Humanitarian League, 53, Chancery Lane.

[Why make an exception in favour of the glutton?—Ed.]

THE BILL FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a silent member at the special general meeting held on Saturday to discuss our Bill, I was much interested in your explanations of the clauses, and also in the answers to the number of questions asked by the more capable members. It struck me that hundreds of members who were unable to be present would appreciate and understand the reasons for the various clauses passed if the Bill could be annotated for them, and if printed in parallel columns in the *B.J.N.* it would make it all so clear. Having listened to the discussion on Saturday last, I think it is now a splendid Bill—giving us nurses a large measure of rightful responsibility and self-government—of which I hope we may prove ourselves worthy, if it becomes law without mutilation. I hope our officers and the Executive Committee, who have evidently given so many hours of anxious thought to the Bill, may receive wide and active support from every member of the Society in pushing it forward. We can all do a little, and also in the doing get rid of some of the just reproach for apathy, of which nurses' societies, as well as others, are certainly guilty.

I remain, Madam,

Yours gratefully,

AN INTERESTED MEMBER.

ANOTHER HARD CASE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—“A Mother’s” experience is by no means singular in expensive nursing homes in London. My son, a young officer of twenty-seven, had to have an operation on his knee, which necessitated his leg remaining absolutely without movement for a time. His nurse was a girl of nineteen and had never been trained in a hospital. She was giving time in exchange for “training” in the Home, and at the expense of my son’s health as it turned out. This ignorant young woman put a tin, uncovered, in my son’s bed, burnt his heel, moved the leg to dress it, and broke down the operation. This I did not learn until he had left the Home some time after, when we complained to the surgeon. He said he was not responsible for the nurses, and was not aware my son’s attendant was untrained (she was dressed up in complete uniform); and whether he continues to patronise the Home I don’t know. We went to another surgeon for the second operation.—Yours sincerely,

ANOTHER MOTHER.

[We think it would be a satisfactory rule for medical men and patients to adopt, to only use Homes where the Lady Superintendent employs three years’ certificated nurses—as many now do.—Ed.]

THE COST OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that the Hon. Secretary of the Home Hospitals Association, Fitzroy House, in reply to a letter from Mr. G. Lawder Eaton, published in the *Times* on the 26th ult., asking for the inclusive weekly charges for nursing and attendance at that institution for the “well-to-do,” says “that with efficient administration it cannot be provided for less than £4 4s. per week, apart from surgical and medical charges,” and continues: “The Association is in a position to afford such accommodation, and, while its charges accordingly range from the weekly sum above mentioned to a maximum of £10 10s., the accommodation for which greatest demand is made is that provided for an inclusive charge of £7 7s. per week.”

As I stated last week, these are quite up to the average charges of West-end proprietary Home Hospitals, which are conducted as commercial concerns.

If Fitzroy House is founded on charity, and it has already had many thousands of the public’s money, it ought to nurse a class—the poorer middle class—who cannot afford to pay more than from £3 to £4 a week, and not charge £10 10s. fees, and thus take in rich patients, who should not be permitted to participate in the benefits which the benevolent imagine are being organised for the deserving lower middle class who are ineligible for admittance to our voluntary hospitals. I cannot think the Duke of Northumberland realises how faulty is Sir Henry Burdett’s finance in this instance.

MANAGER OF SELF-SUPPORTING HOME HOSPITAL.

A HIGH-HANDED ACTION.

We are requested by Miss Beatty to give publicity to the following correspondence:—

To the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses Association.

November 19th.

SIR,—I request that my address and qualifications

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