



## 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.*

#### OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge and thank you for the cheque £1 Is., which I received this morning.

I take this opportunity of telling you what great pleasure I receive in reading your BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Thanking you,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

M. ALDRICH.

Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

#### THE ANTI-REGISTRATION MANIFESTO.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am forwarding to you a copy of the Anti-Registration Manifesto, with many more names attached than have yet appeared in print. But with half an eye one realises at once that these signatories have no right to speak in the name of trained nurses. I cannot think that this document, begging the whole question, as it does, can carry much weight with unprejudiced persons. For instance, would the late Secretaries of State for War, and the horde of permanent officials swept out of the War Office by Lord Esher's masterly report for the reorganisation of the War Office, be likely to approve of its recommendations? I think not. Well, our Bill asks for reform of what we consider wrong in the nursing world. Those persons responsible for the present chaotic condition of affairs are behaving quite humanly in opposing our recommendations. Again, why this strong opposition to the importation of the Chinese into the Transvaal?—it is not primarily to the Chinese as such, but to the conditions under which they are being commandeered. Who would go to the Randlords for an unbiased opinion on this labour question? No reasonable person. Then, surely, the employers of nurses are not those who should be permitted to dictate to us whether or no we shall have a voice in our own professional affairs. It is to be regretted that so many Matrons who ought to be our friends, and help us to organise on just lines, have thrown in their lot with the rich and powerful chairmen of hospitals, and medical potentates—no less rich and powerful—and ladies like Lady Priestley, who not long since held nurses up to public contempt in the *Nineteenth Century* as women of immoral life. But we have ceased to expect these London Matrons of a past generation to understand or sympathise with the aspirations of a younger and, I am inclined to think, less self-interested generation of nurses. Anyway, it is quite plain that we must appeal to the public

for help, now that so many Matrons of large schools have identified themselves with the men who are determined that we shall have no professional protection. Imagine the heads of the great American training-schools uniting to prevent their own pupils obtaining professional status, and attempting to smash up their professional organisations! Such a situation is not possible, even in one's imagination. That alone proves how terribly we are in the rear in nursing ethics.—Yours sincerely,

A PRIVATE NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am a private nurse. My patient and I cannot understand why so many hospital chairmen and others are so against State Registration. We understand it to mean protection for the British public in times of acute illness. There are a great many cases where a trained nurse is not needed, but a woman who can fuss and be pleasant, tell tales by the hour, and do as the patient tells her. By all means let such patients have them, but why should this woman be allowed to don the hospital nurse's uniform and take the fee of a good trained nurse? To my mind, it is quite time there should be a change. I have worked with the so-called nurse that quite lost her head when there has been the greatest need to keep calm.

Surely our Matrons, chairmen, and others cannot lose all interest in the trained nurse when she leaves the hospital, and cast us off like an old garment. Trusting other trained nurses who feel keenly about this matter will take this subject up,

I am,

Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A PRIVATE NURSE FOR FOURTEEN YEARS.

#### ASPIRATIONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In your Editorial on the above subject you strike the keynote to the lack of progress of all women's work. We, as a sex, broadly speaking, do not realise our duty to the community, and therefore do not study industrial questions from their highest point, viz., "the greatest good of the greatest number."

One feels the need of high ideals, a consistent and persistent habit of looking higher than our present conception of human attainment. But to understand the highest (the greatest good, &c.) is difficult without the help of a vastly more liberal education than women as yet have had. We want education that includes the cultivation of our reasoning faculties, which will broaden and deepen our views of life, when we can logically determine why we stand where we are. The highest sentiment cannot help us to form our duty to ourselves and our professions if it has not knowledge as its basis.

There is no longer any excuse for following our leaders blindly; that age of complete ignorance is past, and we owe a debt to enlightenment that can only be paid with enlightened means.

We must reason for ourselves, and learn by an earnest study of the industrial questions at issue to take the right step in advancing whatever profession we are in.

As Mr. Haws once said, "How is every reform carried? Why, by the protest of an intelligent

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