



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,—Many thanks for the cheque for £1 1s. received this morning. I was very pleased to win it. Many of my patients are interested in finding out your puzzles.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
E. F. EW BANK.

Langford Vicarage,
Biggleswade.

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

81, Cheapside.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose a letter from Sir John Aird generously offering to increase his annual subscription to this fund by 100 guineas a year, this sum to be specially appropriated to endowment in order to raise the fixed annual income of the Fund from investments and other sources to £50,000 a year.

May I venture to appeal through your columns to others who may be willing to follow his example.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH C. SMITH,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

14, Hyde Park Terrace, W.

Dear Mr. Hugh Smith,—In reference to your letter about the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London in the *Times* of March 28th last, since the meeting on March 8th at Marlborough House—when His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, President of the Fund, made the announcement that an anonymous donor was willing to give a sum, estimated to produce £4,600 a year, if others would give the further necessary sum of double that amount by the end of this year, in order to raise the annual income of the Fund from investments and other permanent sources to £50,000 a year—I have thought that the desired fund could in part be raised by annual subscriptions to be appropriated to this particular purpose, and that many would be willing to increase their annual subscriptions for so good an object.

I hope the idea may commend itself to the Executive Committee, and, if so, I shall be very pleased to become a subscriber of an additional 100 guineas.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN AIRD.

MATRONS' MARKS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In the infirmary where I first entered for training, not only did the Matron not take

part in the teaching or examination of the nurses, but she was not permitted to sign the certificate. Thanks to the advice of your admirable journal, I found out that such a certificate, if obtained, would be considered waste paper by many Matrons and nursing authorities—such as the Committee of the Registered Nurses' Society—so I left the infirmary and am now being trained at a general hospital, where we get good lectures from the medical staff and good "grinds" from the Matron; but, although the latter signs our certificate, she takes no part in our examination, which is, as you point out, very theoretical, as it is conducted by medical men. I, for one, would much prefer a certificate or diploma from a conjoint central examining body of doctors and Matrons, and so would many nurses I know being trained in other hospitals.

Yours very truly,
A GRATEFUL READER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—There is no final examination in this hospital where I am training, and, although we get a very good practical training in the wards under good Sisters, and doctors teach us some theory by lectures, still I am sure things would be better done if there were some outside standard for us to work up to. I may say the Lady Superintendent neither teaches us nor takes any part in our training beyond keeping discipline. This hospital cannot therefore be justly called a "school," although it assumes to be so.

Yours,
OVER THE BORDER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—How can hospitals claim to be nurse-training schools unless nurses teach and examine? It is absurd in these days. What we nurses want is a Central Examining Board where there will be some definite standard of knowledge, both theoretical and practical, required of us. I know a nurse plucked by a doctor for a most absurd reason. She could not tell him something about a picture hanging on one of the ward walls—I forget what it was, but he referred her back for further study for "lack of observation." If he had required her to show him how to make a patient comfortable, or a ward clean, she would have come off with flying colours; but then his power of judgment might have been at fault, as most of the really essential things for a nurse to know are not included in the education of medical men. Until our Matrons are really principals of schools, and we have some definite curriculum to study, nursing education must remain most unsatisfactory.

Yours truly,
S. T. G.

[Letters on this question held over. We hope if any Matrons conduct nurses' exams. or award marks they will be good enough to inform our readers of the system, as Miss M. M. Hampson did in our last issue. It is a very important question. Will our readers note that in Miss Hampson's letter in our columns last week the word *hard* should have been *ward*; the Matron's marks are awarded for ward work.—Ed.]

AUTOCRATS FEAR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In reporting the suggestion of the Lewisham Guardians that Major Coates, M.P., was to

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