



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.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS HAMPERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I once again ask the courtesy of your columns to remind your generous readers of the distribution of Christmas hampers to upwards of 6,000 poor crippled children in the Metropolis. These welcome gifts are despatched direct from the Guildhall by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs on the morning of the day when, by permission of the Corporation, we entertain some 1,200 Ragged School children.

His Majesty the King has again given a donation to the Fund, which it is my privilege to bring to the annual notice of the public. The Right Honourable General Sir Dighton Probyn, Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Purse, writes me, October 3rd:—

"Dear Sir William Treloar,—Your letter of the 27th ult. I have submitted to the King, and I write now, by His Majesty's command to say that it affords him much pleasure to subscribe again this year, as in former years, to the Fund which you annually raise to enable you to provide a banquet in the Guildhall and to send a Christmas hamper to every poor crippled child in the Metropolis. The audit of last year's expenses which you kindly sent me to look at I now return, and I also enclose a cheque for His Majesty's usual donation of 10 guineas."

I am hoping that again this year we shall not only be able to say that we have denied no deserving applicant, but that we may have, as we had last year, a little balance in hand to meet those extremely pitiable cases in which a crutch, a cork leg, or the loan of an invalid chair is more welcome even than the hamper.

All through the year the work (by the Ragged School Union) of registration, visitation and relief continues, or we could not undertake the hamper distribution on such a scale with the certainty that not one goes astray or falls into undeserving hands. The little cripple entertains the family, and on a modest estimate the Fund brightened the lives last Christmas of over 30,000 of the poor of London. I am in receipt of hundreds of most gratefully-worded letters.

Donations may be sent, as heretofore to me, addressed:—"Little Cripples' Christmas Hamper Fund; 69, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C."

I am, Madam, Yours faithfully,

W. P. TRELOAR, Alderman.

69, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.

P.S.—This is the eleventh year of my Fund, and every year I have been increasingly successful.

OUTER DARKNESS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Inefficiency of the nurses of the poor! This is, I am told, to be the certain effect of State Registration. As a matter of fact,

I believe that only the sick poor who are under the care of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute are certain of being nursed efficiently. If, as is also stated, three-quarters of the present (trained?) nurses will be left in outer darkness should Registration become compulsory, it will be because they are already in that condition owing to the want of that knowledge which is light. One of the principal reasons for the present demand for State Registration is to raise the position of those trained in smaller hospitals by demanding one uniform minimum standard of knowledge for all. This minimum standard does not lower a gold medallist to it, or imply that there is no difference between "pass degree" or "honours." There is a stigma resting on nurses now trained in small hospitals and infirmaries, for they may present their three years' certificate, but who is to say the amount of knowledge represented by it? One thing seems to be always forgotten or overlooked, and that is, that in all schemes for State Registration the position of those already at work is carefully guarded, and special care taken that no injustice shall be done. The large country public, who can pay for trained nurses, suffer more from the present state of affairs than either the poor who are nursed by the Q.V.J.I., or the London rich who are attended by London men, who probably each send to their own hospital, where they know what the training is. It is the patients in the country who suffer from the want of a legal enforcement of a uniform standard of knowledge, without which no one may call herself or himself a trained nurse. I am told of a Nursing Council which is, without fuss or parade, to protect nursing interests, level up training, &c., but we have, and have had, Councils, Associations, and Societies all for our benefit. Has one of them equalised training or made it a necessity that before a certificate was given a certain amount of knowledge should be attained, or have they helped those trained in the smaller hospitals, who have given their work where it is so truly needed, and where there is so little to attract, to complete their training, and so to compete with their more fortunate sisters in the struggle for professional existence? Nothing can or will do this but State Registration.

Yours truly,

CHRISTINA FORREST.

SLOPPY SENTIMENT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—If one did not realise the sickly sentimentality of the average Britisher, one would be astonished at their invariable attitude towards nurses. Nothing must be done by the State to protect the conscientious, efficient, untiring hospital nurse, who gives years to learn her work, and who often gives her health in the cause of duty; but the incapable, semi-trained, sloppy woman who, after a few months' inefficient instruction, gaily undertakes the responsibility of life and death, is at once an object of solicitude upon the part of society in general. Someone said "the B.P. is a Hass," and, indeed, one is immensely interested, in reading Mrs. Creighton's "Life and Letters of Mandell Creighton," to find that astute judge of humanity coming to the conclusion that "unfortunately the English mind has no grasp of ideas, and no sense of proportion. Indeed, the Englishman has no mind at all; he only has an hereditary obstinacy," and, "personally, I think the English people are insular in their opinion about politics, society,

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