



## 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,—Bow, wow, wow!

I send you ever so many tail wags for that lovely strip of paper you so kindly sent me last week. You will be glad to hear I am getting on very nicely with my barrel collections for the hospital here. When I go on the Pantiles or walk on the Common, quite big crowds of humans flock round me, so as soon as they begin to drop coins into the barrel, I at once sit down, stretch my right arm high up and drop my hand down the way I see humans do when they meet. They seem so pleased to meet a dog so polite and up-to-date in manners that I make quite a nice little sum at these receptions. My patients in the Home here are always very interested in the puzzles, but none of us can make out what animal that is, in this month's set, that is stealing the poor old granny's biscuits. I have pleasure in enclosing you my official receipt—the signature is in my own handwriting—and with best wishes for the prosperity of the Journal.

I am, yours gratefully,  
Tunbridge Wells. LEO.

#### THE NURSE'S POINT OF VIEW.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In considering the Bill for the Registration of Nurses, may I suggest that great importance be laid on the necessity of a Central Examination?

I write from a nurse's point of view. In many hospitals the ward work and the patients are the first and last consideration. Teaching the nurses certainly does come in somewhere, but it is a very doubtful somewhere.

Probationers of an inquiring turn of mind are usually made to understand that they come to hospital to work, not to ask questions.

In a maternity hospital it is very different; you are told over and over again to *ask* if you do not understand; and why? Because they have a Central Examination for Midwives, and it would be considered a disgrace if the hospital did not get a high percentage of passes.

I could write a good deal on this subject, but knowing that you have the best interests of the nurses at heart, it is really not necessary for me to write at all, as you can say it all much better than I can.

Yours very truly,  
M. H.

#### LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL NURSING LECTURES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The following facts may interest you. I have been attending some lectures on "Home

Nursing" given by the London County Council. At the centre I attend, the lecturer is one week a doctor, the next an "assistant." Those by the doctor are very ably and clearly given. Those by the "assistant"—presumably a Board school teacher—are also given well, as far as the theoretical part is concerned, but when it comes to practical demonstrations, such as bed-making, the difficulty comes in. You can tell at once the lecturer has never done nursing; indeed, I find the instructions she gives are word for word taken from a book supplied by the St. John Ambulance Association, written by a man.

The class was instructed in the changing of sheets as follows:—

The bed must be moved with its head a few feet from the wall. One person must stand at its head and firmly grasp the clean sheet (which is placed on the top of all the bedclothes, including a possibly dirty quilt).

A second person stands at the foot of the bed, and with extreme care "firmly and steadily" withdraws all the clothes from the patient—quilt, blankets and dirty sheet—in one fell swoop. "Thus the patient is not exposed."

The changing of the under-sheet was done with all the bedclothes left on the top of the patient, and naturally presented difficulties such as the ordinary practical nurse does not meet with.

The class was properly taught to roll up both clean and dirty sheet under the patient, but it was quite a difficult matter with the top clothes in the way. Instead of gently rolling the patient, a small boy of twelve, from side to side over the rolls, he was bodily lifted, with great difficulty by the teacher and another adult.

And so on, and so on. The whole thing was laughable if it had not been rather sad to see a very ordinary and simple thing made quite difficult and unattainable to a would-be nurse minus an assistant. What I should like to know is why the L.C.C. employs untrained women to teach nursing badly, when there are plenty of experienced nurses both able and willing to teach it well?

Perhaps you can tell me.

I am, yours truly,

CERTIFICATED NURSE.

[There are no women on the London County Council, *voilà tout*.—ED.]

#### THE ETHICS OF THE LAY NURSING PRESS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you very much for your article upon the Lay Nursing Press in your last issue. I sincerely hope it will awaken in the minds of our nurses some glimmering of a professional conscience. To me it seems absolutely incredible that nurses, many of whom are supporters of State Registration, cannot see that every iota of help given to journals which are actively against us or neutral—*i.e.*, covertly against a better status and educational standard for nurses, and known to be controlled by those holding such opinions, must inevitably strengthen the hands of the enemy against whom we are fighting.

Yet we find that nurses are with one hand working for a professional standing, whilst with the other they are endeavouring to increase the interest and circulation of a paper, which, while professing to help, ignores, if it does not actively work against our best interests.

And why? For a few extra coins to add to their in-

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