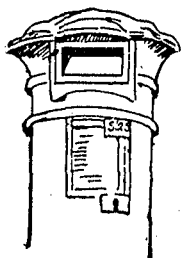


## Letters to the Editor.

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.*

### THE THOUSANDTH NUMBER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The issue of the 1,000th number of our Journal gives cause for great congratulation for many reasons. Let me enumerate some of them for the information of those of your readers who have not watched its career from the first number as I have.

The first issue of *The Nursing Record*, the title under which the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was first known, was a modest little production, but from the very first it stood for the principle of State Registration of Nurses, and has maintained this position unflinching through twenty long years. For this reason alone it merits the support of all who desire the welfare of the sick, for the most cruel part of the anti-registration agitation is this, that every day registration of nurses is delayed means additional and unnecessary suffering to the sick and dying. The opposition should take this into account, and consider whether in their determination to keep a body of women workers unorganised—for that is at the root of their objection to registration—they are justified in paying the price; and inflicting daily pain and injury on a helpless section of the community. Personally it is a responsibility I would decline to take for any reason whatsoever.

But the Journal has done much more than consistently advocate State Registration. It has taught nurses the dignity of their work, the pleasure and profit of co-operation, the duty of self-government, their responsibility to the community, the necessity of a voice in the press, and further, while twenty years ago nurses hardly knew the existence of any hospitals other than those at which they themselves were trained, and found it difficult to believe that anyone trained elsewhere could be rightly described as a trained nurse at all, they are now, through the Journal, brought into contact, not only with nurses trained in other schools in their own country, but also in the four quarters of the globe. It has lifted us out of a small environment, and given us the freedom of the world. This policy has been noticeable ever since you, dear Editor, took over its management, and put, without stint, at the service of the nursing world, your unrivalled professional knowledge, your journalistic ability, and the courage and tenacity of purpose which we have come to look for, and never looked in vain, in the columns of our professional paper.

For all these things you are entitled to our thanks, and they are yours. May the Journal go on steadily improving in the future as it has ever done in the past under your able leadership.

Yours faithfully,

A MEMBER OF THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

### ACCURACY REQUIRED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Nurses engaged in private work must often have felt perplexed by a new patient's medicines. A nurse does not always go to a case at the very beginning, unless it be an operation or a maternity case; so that by the time she gets there, there is a goodly array of bottles, and she has not the least idea what are the contents of any one of them. The directions she gets are usually something like this: "I have a mixture for my digestion, and one I take occasionally, and a sleeping draught, and an aperient. Oh, and there's a box of cachets; I take one of them sometimes."

The nurse will probably find any number of bottles and a few boxes of cachets; the prescriptions may, or may not be forthcoming. The directions on many of the boxes will be: "To be taken as directed," or "A fourth part when necessary." "The mixture to be taken when necessary" may mean anything, and I have at present three bottles so inscribed. My patient does not know whether one is her sleeping draught or aperient, and one she thinks may be that which she had for the pain in her side. Her maid, who used to give her her medicine, was called away suddenly, and forgot to tell anyone where she kept the prescriptions. Of course the chemist could put things right, but that means delay and extra work for someone, who will probably think the new nurse a nuisance.

I think it would be much safer for the patient, and less trouble for the attendant, if all medicines were properly labelled, as "The sleeping draught" or "The aperient"; or the prescription might be copied in full on to each bottle or box.

M.H.

### THE MONTH OF ROSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—June being the month of roses, many nurses having the care of them may be glad to know that if they are put every evening into some deep vessel, so that the water can come right up to their heads, but not touching the petals, they will last three times as long as they would if left in their vases. They like being packed close together, and one can often get from six to twelve in the ordinary wash-stand jug. After ten or twelve hours of this soaking they look quite fresh, and the green leaves soon dry, looking greener than ever. I kept some shop roses last April for fourteen days, in good condition, this way; and some freshly gathered and brought in from the greenhouse only fell to pieces on the twentieth day.

A LOVER OF FLOWERS.

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