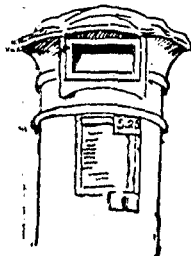


Letters to the Editor.

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.*

NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I thank Miss Forrest for her rousing letter, and make a few points on the Official Directory of Nurses Bill discussed. We have to keep well in mind three things.

(1) The Bill has been promoted in secret by a few men, who have given ample evidence for years that they will not tolerate any form of co-operation amongst trained nurses if they can by any means prevent it.

(2) It has been introduced into the House of Lords in the hope of getting it read a second time, without the expert discussion which it would arouse in the House of Commons, led by men like Mr. H. J. Tennant, the Chairman of the Select Committee on State Registration of Nurses, who have given time and trouble to study the nurses' demand for State organisation.

(3) The lay nursing press have suppressed the Bill, their readers are therefore kept purposely in ignorance of its dangers, and a large proportion of the daily press has persistently boycotted the letters and articles of nurses advocating the protection of the public, from criminal and ignorant persons acting as nurses, through a system of State Registration, whilst they have found ample space for hospital governors, who spend large sums of charitable money in advertising, in which to express their anti-registration views.

Under these unjust conditions we nurses must show ourselves keenly alive. We have only three weeks in which to agitate against these methods of suppressing our quite justifiable demands for State Organisation of Nursing. I advise my fellow nurses not to be too diffident in their methods of making their opinions known. The House of Lords is popularly supposed to be a paternal institution, without which the British Constitution could not exist for a day. Treat it as such; appeal to its members in a straight-forward and plain-spoken way. I feel sure if these "noble lords" knew how instinctively we distrust the men who have sprung this secretly drafted Bill upon us, *noblesse oblige* would compel them to utterly condemn their tactics.

I think we all owe a very deep debt of gratitude to Lord Amptihill, who, I see, has given notice to move the rejection of the Directory Bill at its second reading.

Yours truly,

AN INFIRMARY NURSE.

DO DAILY FEES PAY?

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think daily fees do pay, but, sometimes the nurses come off very badly. I remember years ago going to a case at 11 a.m. on Wednesday. I remained on duty until 12 mid-day Friday, when another nurse arrived. We both left early on Saturday morning. On going to the Secretary I said I felt entitled to a full week's fee, but she said that was impossible, so I was only paid for three days. On the other hand, people often send for a nurse for one day, or even for a few hours, if they need not pay the full week's fee.

Yours truly,

MARY HARVEY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—No; they don't. At least not if one is a member of a Nurses' Co-operation, or working on one's own account. The money payment of two guineas a week is only part of the remuneration a patient agrees to give when engaging a nurse. There is board and lodging, which costs at the least 25s. a week, and 2s. 6d. for washing. I find if I am only kept two or three days I am out of a case at least for the rest of the week, which means the one guinea I have been paid goes to provide for my board and room, washing, and other necessaries for the rest of the week. I have therefore kept myself but earned nothing. It is very difficult to save unless one is in good work for at least nine or ten months in the year. Cases do not arrange themselves in that convenient manner that one can make up a week with one patient if another wishes for only a few days' service. Then the wear and tear of a private nurse's life is enormous—packing, unpacking, jolting about in cabs and trains, settling into a fresh environment, making oneself acceptable to dozens of different temperaments, and only one individuality to work upon. No one can realise the great nerve strain necessary for all this. One week cases are had enough, but two in one week at the same price would soon break down the strongest woman.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

A Co-op. NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In these days when everyone is so hard up, a trained nurse is a luxury, and unless a patient with "flue," which is so desperately infectious that a nurse, if she caught it from her patient might be ill and lose weeks of work and pounds of health, is prepared to pay a week's fee I think the good old-fashioned custom of calling in the "maiden aunt" should be reverted to. Her sense of duty should be put to the test. In my youth it never failed. As a child, well do I remember, when I had measles, mumps, and such like distempers, my mother, who was a "fresh air" woman, and "couldn't breathe in a stuffy, sick room," invariably wrote to Aunt Matilda, who lived in a small way in a neighbouring village, and who, luckily for me, was impecunious and at

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