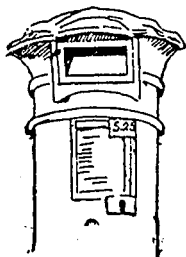


Letters to the Editor.



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.

FUTILE SUBJECTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The suggestion that nurses should "live out" of hospital is, of course, absurd, but I do think that the intelligence of the majority of nurses might be cultivated if they could be helped to take an interest in something outside the ward routine. For some years now we Bart's nurses have enjoyed a Nurses' League, and I consider it has done wonders in broadening our views and arousing our active sympathies on questions of which otherwise we could only read. I believe it is only in the hospitals with Leagues attached, where anything like an intelligent knowledge of the State Registration question and all it entails is ever discussed. I have friends in many London hospitals, and, so far as I can gather, the nurses are discouraged from considering legislation which is to affect the whole future of nursing, whilst Committees and Matrons combine to prevent the State doing us any sort of justice. Miss Ashby is so far right that in many hospitals the nursing staff is maintained in the most futile subjection.

I am, yours truly,
A BART'S LEAGUE MEMBER.

READ, MARK, AND LEARN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice in a lay nursing paper that a correspondent, who states that he or she is a fully trained nurse, desires that the Nurses' Registration Bill should be set aside until the "various clauses of the Bill have been fully and fairly explained" to nurses, and begs that it shall not be "pushed through" before those most interested "really realise what has happened."

Certainly it takes a considerable time for some persons to "realise what has happened." For instance, the Midwives Act, affecting vitally every midwife in England and Wales, provided for a period of grace of two years' duration, in which midwives could register without further examination. Yet so little did many of them realise what had happened that until the two years had elapsed they never knew that the Act had been passed, though this was proclaimed far and wide.

If the anonymous "Trained Nurse" only reads a lay nursing organ, which carefully avoids keeping its readers informed on registration matters, she may not be aware that it is now 34 years since the registration of trained nurses was first advocated, but she must not assume that everyone else is as ignorant as herself.

As to having the clauses of the Bill "explained"

to her, I may, perhaps, be permitted to remind her that the Bill (Nurses' Registration, H.L. 164) can be obtained from Messrs. Wyman, Fetter Lane, E.C., price 1½d., and that its clauses are not difficult of comprehension by a person of average intelligence.

I should recommend her henceforth to read the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING as well as the daily papers. She will then no longer have to own to the ignorance of which she now makes pitiable confession.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A CONSTANT READER.

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—Ambulances available for the removal of scarlet fever, diphtheria, or smallpox cases to the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board may be secured on application to the offices of the Board, Victoria Embankment, E.C. Telephone No. 2461 Holborn and 7180 Central.

Maternity Nurse.—When entering into an engagement to nurse a maternity case, you should always have a clearly worded written agreement, in which should be noted the scale of fees determined upon, if the case does not come on when expected, for the waiting time. Businesslike arrangements before the event often obviate much trouble afterwards.

Nurse Simpson.—It is very educative to visit exhibitions and see the latest appliances and methods used in the care of the sick. A nurse who lives in London has exceptional opportunities in this respect, of which she does not always avail herself, while her provincial sister will make every effort to come to town for the purpose.

Correspondent, Newcastle.—We think the co-operation is intended for French nurses only, and in any case an intimate knowledge of the French language would be essential. We should advise you to write to Mlle. Chaptal, Maison Ecole D'Infirmières Privées, 66, Rue Vercingetorix, Paris-xiv.

Notices.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle-Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

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