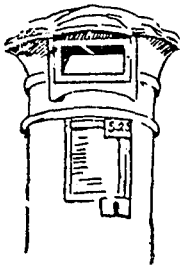


Letters to the Editor.



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.

PROVIDENT NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am a trained nurse, masseuse, and midwife, and I would gladly address Friendly Societies on the advantages of their adding trained nursing to their other benefits, if some of your readers would put me in the way of doing so.

Yours faithfully,
G. HOVENDEN.

Glenlea, 109, Thurlow Park Road,
Dulwich, S.E.

[We should advise our correspondent to write to the Secretaries of Friendly Societies. A list of these is given in the Post Office (London) Directory.—Ed.]

"THE MAN IN THE STREET."

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

DEAR EDITOR,—I thought twice before coming up to London from the country to take part in "the last procession for the suffrage," but thankful I am I came. I would not have missed that march from Temple Stairs to Albert Hall for a year's salary. It was a royal progress for the nurses, and an immense eye-opener. There can be no doubt after such a public ovation from thousands of all classes, for miles along the route, how the public estimate their nurses, and how they regard their uniform. I believe if you organised a Registration Procession, with emblematic banners and mottoes, we should have the support of every "man in the street." It could be made most picturesque, and a few home truths would be convincing, such as "Down with nurse sweating," "Why rob Peter to pay Paul at the London," "Nurses and nursing standards need protection." Then let literature be distributed, stating why nurses need legal protection from hospital committees, which make cent. per cent. on their work. But the "Bart's" case should be presented proving our helplessness even to maintain efficient standards when we have made them; how criminals pose as nurses; something on the exploitation in nursing homes, and any other tasty tit-bits which would tell.

I feel sure, from my experience on Saturday, we could arouse a tremendous wave of feeling in our favour. Quiet and constitutional demands for protection and reform can evidently be snuffed out by social influence by professional philanthropists. I feel sure our wisest plan will be to "come out" and take the man in the street into our confidence. He has a vote, and as the immortal Rhodes remarked, "The vote covers all." I hope you will consider this suggestion.

I am, yours truly,
BART'S CERTIFICATE.

QUESTIONS RIPE FOR DISCUSSION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice with interest in your valuable Journal that a Conference is to be called at an early date to consider the feeding of hospital nurses. It is needed.

What is also needed, one would imagine, is a conference on the housing of nurses, judging from the Treasurer's statement about the dangerous construction of the Nurses' Home at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the appalling conditions made public as to the housing of some of the nurses on the staff of the Hackney Infirmary, under conditions which, if accurately reported, would be disgusting in a common lodging-house.

And we might also with advantage have a discussion as to the salaries nurses receive and the money they earn.

As an increasing number of hospital committees are organising private nursing departments, the salaries paid to trained nurses might well form the subject of debate. It would also be to the advantage of nurses to know how they compare with the earnings of nurses working on good co-operations, because some hospitals enter into very unfair competition with such nurses, more especially in one well-known instance, where nurses are certificated at the end of two years, instead of three, and sent private nursing for full fees. Take again the Cottage Benefit Association: It is reported:—"The nurses are all certificated monthly nurses, with training in the elements of general nursing. Charge for nurses' services to benefit subscribers, 2s. to £1 per week for ordinary and maternity cases. Infectious cases double. Nurses' wages, £16 and lodging first year, rising £2 yearly to £30 per annum, with bonus after termination of engagement."

Why committees send out monthly nurses at £2 a week—and presumably in the case of non-subscribers a higher fee—to nurse infectious cases, and how they dare take the responsibility, is not apparent. But as this is done why not in equity pay the nurses what they earn, less the usual 7½ per cent. for working expenses?

These points would be extremely interesting for discussion. Why not arrange a conference to include them all?

Yours faithfully,
SUGGESTION.

NOTICE.

All anonymous letters are put into the waste paper basket, and no further notice taken of them.

As the Editor gets many letters weekly requiring replies, not on Journal business, for the future no reply can be sent unless a stamp is enclosed.

Notices.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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