



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.

PRIVATE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Having been a Private Nurse for four years, I am much interested in the discussion as to the desirability of educated ladies being engaged as Private Nurses. I am, of course, prepared to give due deference to your correspondents' opinions, but to me it seems strange that anyone with experience of Private Nursing should maintain that education is a non-essential for those who would excel in that branch of our profession. By education, I do not mean the acquiring and storing up of facts—historical, geographical, physiological—but I do mean all that the acquiring of such facts does for the mind and character, namely: the learning to think, to deduce, the quick perception—the natural results of our years of application to study. Then again, the education of society, the study of character in men and women, and the practical application of such study as shown in tact, in influence, and in playing upon the strength or weakness, the wisdom or folly, of those we deal with so as to bring about the ends which are necessary for their well-being. All these powers are, as a rule, obtainable only by a woman when educated in the full sense of the word, and without these powers how is the Private Nurse to succeed in what ought to

be her aims? Especially, how is the Private *Mental* Nurse to succeed in bending her patient's will to hers, without the patient knowing she is doing so, which is the A B C of management in hysteria?—Yours obediently,

CHRISTIAN S. DOWNING,
Certificated Nurse.

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES.

Those Nurses who have applied for, and have not received, papers concerning the Registered Nurses' Society, will receive them *next* week, the Committee desiring to complete the organisation before sending out the application forms, as it saves so much correspondence.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Mrs. Roberts-Austen, London (with enclosure).
- C. Mrs. Coster, London (with enclosure).
- D. Miss Sophia Downing, Blackheath.
- E. Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Evatt, Woolwich (with enclosure).
- H. Miss Marian Humsfrey, Birmingham.
- K. Dr. Arabella Kenealey, Watford.
- L. Miss Landale, Edinburgh (with enclosure).
- M. Miss Alice Meinertzhagen (with enclosure); Miss Lina Mollett, Hanover (with enclosure).
- P. Miss de Pledge, London (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Isabel Sharman, London (with enclosure); Messrs. Sampson Low & Marston (with enclosure).
- T. Miss Jane Talbot, Inverness.
- W. Miss Wade, Falmouth; Miss Alice Wallace, Colorado (with enclosure).

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