

join others where they can have leave of absence if they require it, as they are not obliged to take a new case directly they are relieved from the last.—I am, yours truly,

AN OLD PRIVATE NURSE.

MESSAGE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The letter in this week's NURSING RECORD, "Charlatanism in Massage," accentuates my contention as expressed in my former letter as to the necessity for an association by whose council the actions of those engaged in the work can be governed. I cannot, however, agree with your correspondent's summing up. "That no person should employ a masseur or masseuse, except under a doctor's immediate supervision," is, undoubtedly, a very satisfactory arrangement (for the doctor) provided the public would accept it; but I'm afraid there would be even more difficulty in putting it into practice than in stopping the counterprescribing of chemists, unless the private services of the masseur or masseuse were retained, as are those of the dispenser. The context, "for these only (the doctors) are in a position to gauge the qualifications of those employed" is unfortunately not true as regards 99 hundredths of practitioners at the present time. The majority of them know, as yet, little or nothing of the principles of massage, and look upon the art as synonymous with shampooing or the ordinary up and down rubbing of a muscular washer-woman, and even of those who have studied these principles and fully appreciate their efficacy in suitable cases, a very small proportion could judge as to the fitness of one operator as compared with another. I could mention several other factors from the practitioner's and massage points of view, that may easily be seen with different pairs of spectacles, and will require very careful adjustment before this valuable therapeutic agent can be universally adopted; but I will not burden your readers with them, as many of them will be at once self-evident. I would, however, again emphasize as a step in the right direction to those certificate-holders, who, having the best

interests of their profession at heart, wish to place it upon a sound and scientific basis, the necessity of speedily forming themselves into an association on somewhat similar lines to those I sketched out in my former letter.—Yours truly,

E. LUKE FREER,

Late Hon. Surgeon Birmingham Royal Orthopedic Hospital.

REPLIES.

M. M. L., Bedford Park.—We can thoroughly recommend Sharuhen, 3, Earl's Avenue, Folkestone.

E. W.—I know of no lectures during spring and summer such as you require. The course to be inaugurated in October by the Royal British Nurses' Association, will, doubtless, meet your requirements. Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's, will deliver the course on "Practical Nursing." Apply to the Secretary, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, W. We have nothing to do with the other matters you mention, but have forwarded your letter to the manager. The *Nursing Directory* for 1894, a most useful work, is now in print, so, probably, it will be forwarded to you.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Mrs. Annesley, Bradford; Miss C. K. Amola, Newmarket.
- B. Mr. Beresford, Birmingham (with enclosure); Miss Bancroft, London; Lady Bloomfield (with enclosure).
- C. Miss Curtis, London; Miss Conolly, Melbourne.
- D. Miss Danvers, Bath; Miss A. Drewitt, San Remo.
- F. Miss Fairfield, Chichester (with enclosure); Miss Alice Foster, Philadelphia; Miss Forrester, London.
- G. Colonel Gildea, London (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Elma Smith, London; Miss Surtice, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Miss Standing, Bournemouth. Miss Edythe L. Somerset, London.
- T. Miss Treloar, Bath (with enclosure); Miss Tomkins, Eastbourne; Miss A. Temple, London.
- V. Mr. William Vincent, London (with enclosure).
- W. Mr. Alex. Ward, Manchester; Miss G. Wallace, Norwich; Miss T. Wilkinson, Hampstead.

The Registered Nurses' Society.

(A CO-OPERATION OF PRIVATE NURSES.)

269, REGENT STREET, W.

Telegraphic Address: "SOROR, LONDON."

Membership is only open to Registered Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association of three years' Hospital training. Members will obtain their full earnings, less 7½ per cent. commission—to cover the expenses of management. Any surplus will be set aside for the benefit of the members. Many of the leading medical men in London and the Provinces have promised the Society their cordial support. Applications for membership may be made, in the first instance by letter only, to the Secretary at the Offices.

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