

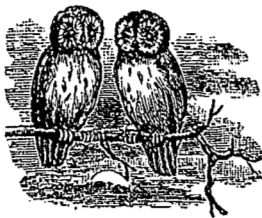
AMONG the new limited liability companies recently registered is the "Clinical Research Association, Limited," and the capital is £10,000 in £1 shares. The objects are:—"To carry on the business of analysts, chemists, druggists, importers and manufacturers of, and dealers in, pharmaceutical, medicinal, chemical articles, &c., photographic, surgical, and scientific apparatus, &c." The first subscribers (who take one share) are:—L. E. Shaw, 10, St. Thomas's Street, S.E., physician; Mary H. Shaw, wife of above; E. C. Perry, Guy's Hospital, S.E., physician; Caroline Perry, wife of above; J. Jones, Croydon General Hospital, Secretary; W. R. Millar, 53, Borough High Street, S.E., solicitor; C. H. Wells, Southwark, accountant. Registered office, 5, Denman Street, London Bridge, S.E.

THE *Westminster Gazette* quotes the following letter from the *Behar Times*, as another curious specimen of Belu English. It purports to be an application from a native soldier to his Commanding Officer, asking for leave of absence owing to ill-health:—

Honoured Sir,—Having been amputated from my family for some years, and as I have complaints of the abdomen, coupled with great conflagrations of the internals, and prostration of all desire for work, with also the disgorging of my dinner. I hope your Highness will excuse my attending at orderly room for nine or ten days more, and in duty bound shall ever pray for the salubrity of your temper, and the enlargement of your family."

To say the least of it, the English is "peculiar."

The Matrons' Council.



MADAM,—May I add a few suggestions to the correspondence going on in the *NURSING RECORD* as to the basis on which the Matrons' Council should be formed. I have felt much surprise that any exception could have been taken to the original plan. Miss Stewart's

conception is that of a broad-minded, broad-hearted union of professional women joining hands for the advancement of all that is best in their work, leaving out of consideration as unworthy the accident of *position*. Nothing can be more illogical than to speak of Nurses and Sisters as distinct from Matrons.

The Nurse or Sister of to-day is the Matron of to-morrow—a few more rungs up the ladder of success—that is all. It is for mutual help that these should join the Council. The Nursing profession is somewhat embryonic at present, progressing and developing in rapid shapes; the recently-fledged Nurse will infuse fresh blood and enterprise into the Council, and prevent us from getting into ruts; while we Matrons will somewhat temper the Radicalism of the up-to-date Nurse with the wise Conservatism of longer experience.

If the Matrons only formed a Council, the Nurses, doubtless, would form one of their own, and, instead of a very large united representative body, the influence will be split up into two camps—not necessarily hostile, but certainly not united in aim.

Nurses have every right to a voice in the discussion of matters relating to their own professional position; and there is no question that participation in the affairs of the Matrons' Council would be a very valuable training for them; so that when they were called upon to themselves fill the position of Hospital Superintendents, they would have a wider grasp of their responsibilities, and how to meet them.

I think some Charge Nurses and Sisters will feel disposed to question Miss Mollett's suggestion that their admission to the Council, would deteriorate its "quality." In my mind's eye, I can see scores of Sisters and Nurses who deserve a better epithet than "quantity"—women who would confer a distinction on the Council, rather than detract from it.

The Divine Right of Matrons is a new claim, which my knowledge of the class leads me to believe they will not be anxious to arrogate. A claim to Infallibility belongs to Superstition, and Superstition belongs to Ignorance.

If a Matron cannot retain the dignity of her position because she occasionally comes in contact with her Charge Nurses and Sisters at the public meetings of the Matrons' Council, it would appear to me that the sooner her resignation is sent in, the better it would be for everyone concerned in her Hospital.

Few Matrons wish to be "little tin gods on wheels" with tinsel crowns.

It has also been overlooked that some of the best known names in the Nursing world, for example, Miss Nightingale, Sister Dora, and others, were never Matrons of Hospitals in the strict sense of the word; and that we count in our ranks many women whose aid and counsel would be invaluable, but who never have held, and have no desire to hold, official positions.

Miss Mollett's mention of the "indiscriminate admission" of Associates is another unhappy expression.

It appears to me that if a fully qualified Nurse or Sister is elected by the Executive Committee as an Associate, that their choice would be by no means "indiscriminate." It would also seem that instead of cavilling at the admission of such Associates we should warmly welcome to our ranks those of our number who have sufficient public spirit to wish to join such a Society.

No woman would take the trouble to do so unless she were actuated by a worthy professional motive.

Individually, I hope means will be taken to prevent the Council in its inception from degenerating into a narrow clique or mutual admiration society. The first aim of women engaging in public work must be to abolish small distinctions and party jealousies.

That there should be meetings *in camera* at which Matrons only should be present, I concede and approve, but the Council, if it is to be a power, must be a republic with large aims, centred interests, and a broad union for common causes. We are not fighting for a privileged few; we are struggling for the greatest good of the greatest number.—Truly yours,

ANNESLEY KENEALY,
Registered Nurse.

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