

we allow room for expansion ; we allow the branch to stretch forth glad arms to Heaven ; we sun them, we air them, and we get beautiful results. In the training of the girl, we lop, we prune, we trim ; we repress imagination, and we produce a "cramped mind." For my own part, I have always the greatest admiration for Topsy who "grewed," and I think her infinitely preferable to, and a finer type of humanity than, the piggish Eva who was cultivated, like a piece of white, bloodless sea-kale, under a glass case. The average Probationer, then, by reason of her home training, begins her hospital career with a somewhat limited appreciation of the true facts of life. She is by no means always an educated person ; and the conditions under which she enters her Hospital, as a rule, call for less mental culture than is attained by a School Board child who has passed the 4th or 5th Standard. Fortunately, now, there are some few Hospitals which are demanding an educational entrance test, and thus one factor in the production of "cramped minds" will be eliminated. During the years of training, unless the Nurse keep some watch over herself, she is apt to fall into the narrowness which is common to "life in a community." This narrowness is by no means confined to Hospital life. It is to be observed, always, when any number of the same kind of people are collected together. One notes it at the Universities, among soldiers in barracks, among naval men, and, in short, wherever one class is "gathered together." The talk is "shoppy," the interests are apt to be confined to one set of individuals, the tone is local and personal, and the community, whatever it may be, "gets into a rut"—and often stays there ! So the trained Nurse is "cramped" in mind. The remedy is to read, to think, to watch lest the mind dwell too much on one's own work ; to join Societies for the common good. To form Debating Societies in Hospitals, and to take care that the discussions raised deal with matters entirely unconnected with professional work. Discuss social questions, politics, dress, literature, anything you will, but do not allow your Debating nights to be a reproduction of your work in the wards. Let the Nurse identify herself with women's movements. Let her find interest in the R.B.N.A., the Matrons' Council, and all other Societies which have for their aim co-operation and largeness, and thus will she clear herself of the reproach of a "cramped mind."

ESTHER ALLEN.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am extremely glad some attention has been called to the "cramped minds" of some Nurses. I am still smarting from the result of some little trouble I have taken to obtain some converts to the R.B.N.A. and to the Matrons' Council. I went from Nurse to Nurse and preached the advantage of combination and co-operation. I spoke in clear terms of a raised professional standard and the advanced ethics of Nursing. I was met on all turns with : "Why should I bother about the profession?" "Why should I send a subscription to benefit other Nurses?" "Shall I get a higher salary or a better hospital appointment because I am a member of the B.N.A.?" I turned then to the Matrons and asked if they would join the Council. Some had already done so, and spoke with enthusiasm about their membership. But, alas ! that there should be so many "cramped" ones in authority ! who plainly say : "I have enough to do with my own work without bothering about other Matrons," and "What has the training of Nurses and Hospital politics to do with me ? I have a good position, and all I care about is to keep it."—Your's regretfully,

"CO-OPERATION."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The question of the "cramped mind" of the trained Nurse should set in motion a most interesting discussion. If you will allow me to enter the lists, I will start with the premise that the taunt of a "cramped mind" applies to every class of women. But, I must hasten to add that she

is rapidly emerging ; and, if a few words on this important question will help her, even to a slight degree, to "hurry up" with the emerging, I shall, indeed, be delighted. The origin of most women's narrowness is that, in sporting parlance, they are "going a lone hand," which means that they are playing entirely for themselves in the game of life. They have not yet realized that the interests of one are bound up in the common interest. One hears so many women saying, "I have gained a good position, why should I help another woman on ? She will perhaps cut me out." This selfish, narrow policy, as most things selfish do, rebounds on the pursuers of it. The success of one woman means the success of others. It means one more stumbling block of the many that are placed in the path of women's work, swept away for all time. It is a common thing to find one woman opposing the suggestion of a good salary for another. Foolishly and blindly she says, "If she is paid so well, I shall not get so much !" This is where the "cramped mind" comes in. Were she better educated, did she know something of political economy, she would have learned that the good salaries reached by a few women tend to the upward raising of all women's wages. But this knowledge women have yet to gain. And they must learn also that every small jealousy, every petty rivalry by which they seek to frustrate another woman is making their own position so much the harder. In very truth, woman is a greater enemy to woman than man has ever been. We see this in social jealousies, in the tyranny of women to their governesses, in the general opposition of the sex one to another. Take the woman who is happily married and settled to her complete satisfaction. She is the most opposed to young unmarried women ; she is the one who will take the most trouble to spoil a girl's matrimonial chances. And not a bit because she has daughters of her own to marry off. I am speaking of young married women who try to frustrate the happiness of other women from mere jealousy of their own kind. Women ought to show the world a better example, and become unionists in the sense of holding together for the highest and best interests of their own sex. And let them be sure that anything which raises the position of the Universal Woman will also greatly benefit the individual woman.—I am, Madam, your's faithfully,

"WOMAN-UNIONIST."

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES.

Nurse Helen Dunn, Birmingham.—Address : The Hon. Sec., the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, 73, Cheapside, E.C.

Mr. T. Paynter Allen, London.—We regret that we have not space, at present, for further correspondence on the subject.

Miss Emily Packer, Bournemouth.—Your manuscript will be returned if submitted and not approved. If suitable for publication, we would communicate with you again.

Sister Emily, Liverpool.—If you imbibe your nursing politics from unprofessional sources you must not be surprised at finding yourself misinformed. Our advice to you is to register without delay, as your qualifications appear unimpeachable. We return certificate, and should advise you only to send a copy on future occasions as the original might get lost if not registered. Of course, in applying for Registration by the Royal British Nurses' Association, the original must be submitted to the scrutiny of the Board.

Miss Dora Davidson, Manchester.—It is to be regretted that you were not earlier a subscriber to the NURSING RECORD, as the formation of the Registered Nurses' Society was discussed in its columns in the Spring, and all vacancies were speedily filled. It is our aim to keep our readers informed of all professional matters, which of course directly or indirectly affect every woman engaged in nursing the sick. If you desire to know what is going on in the Nursing world, both at home and abroad, the Moral is obvious : Read the "Nursing Record."

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