

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was rather surprised on Saturday night on reading the concluding sentence of your Scottish letter, to which my attention was drawn by a medical friend, who, pointing with finger, said "Have you seen that?" What bosh! I can only say that what I complain of seems to have been written with no good intention, and can only have been prompted by vindictiveness and with a desire to hold me up to ridicule and contempt, and lower me in the eyes of those Nurses who employ me as their agent, and so injure my business, which has already cost me so much to establish. What respectable young Nurse will apply to me now for a situation when she knows that the medical correspondent of THE NURSING RECORD is groaning for her dignity because she comes to me, the author of the last ad. in your Scottish letter. My name is not attached to that letter, but it just might as well have been. The profession would know my ads. as well without my name. It is an ad. I very frequently put in the *Scotsman* when I have occasion; for my own part I can see nothing wrong with it, and similar advertisements may be seen daily. I cannot make out or see "Kelva's" object in reproducing my advertisement and groaning over it like Holy Willie. Whatever his object, I will know it. I won't be looked upon with suspicion, nor treated on a par with your London brothels. I carry on my business in a straightforward and honest manner, and I should not be interfered with in a sneaking, cowardly and ungentlemanly way. It shows how much your scribe knows of nursing business when he quotes a Nurse-housemaid as a trained Nurse and groans over her too. I am now confined to bed, but I will place the matter in the hands of my lawyer as soon as I am able to go down town.—I am, Madam, yours truly,

Edinburgh, 19/12/94.

[We make a principle of publishing any letter traversing any statement made in these columns. But we presume our correspondent will thank us for withholding his signature to this remarkable effusion.—ED.]

"ON UNIFORMS."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry that the National Health Society desires to adopt a uniform; people are as anxious to be classified by their clothes, as though they were labelling themselves for a museum. If, however, another uniform must exist, let us hope it will be more in accordance with healthy rules, than those in vogue at present. Last time I employed a trained Nurse, (who, *pace* an old Matron, was a gentle and refined lady), I besought her, for my own comfort as well as hers, to take off the stiff cuffs that were always slipping down, and to undo the harsh collar that pressed, as high collars also do, on her throat when she stooped over her patient. Why Nurses should wear streamers of gauze that are in the way, whether their bonnets are on or off, is a problem that can be solved only by reference to that "prettiness" which is independent of use and sense. I have travelled on a windy day on the top of an omnibus behind these supposed ornaments, and felt that "*celui donne à penser.*" Why also do Matrons wear long and often dusty trains, when even fashion has condemned them? Why does a lady lecture on improved sanitary conditions and increased knowledge of hygiene when her own high heels and pointed shoes attest her wilfulness or ignorance?

CONSISTENT.

[We hope some of our readers will answer these questions in the new year.—ED.]

REPLIES.

Miss Kate Brittain.—Doubtless when the Treasurer has had time to inspect the accounts, the net profit of the Bazaar will be announced.

Miss L. L. Dock, Chicago.—We were much gratified by your kind and encouraging letter, and are glad to hear you keep in touch with British Nursing matters through our Journal. We have most pleasant memories of our visit to your splendid Hospital in Chicago.

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