



## 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.*

### "ESPRIT DE CORPS."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I do not wish for one moment to minimise the necessity for the development of professional feeling amongst Nurses, but I cannot pass over without a protest the contents of a letter which appeared last week in your columns, signed "Esprit de Corps." For any Nurse (and "Esprit de Corps" owns she is one) to deliberately state that the majority of Nurses are "intensely selfish, slovenly, uncultivated women, imbued with an ungracious and grumbling spirit" shows a lack of sympathy concerning her colleagues which disqualifies her for the sobriquet which she has assumed. Has "Esprit de Corps" ever done one year's consecutive private nursing? Does she know the extraordinary demand such service exacts from a Nurse, the self-control, the tact, patience, self-sacrifice and weariness of the flesh? Does she know the physical strain produced by broken sleep, irregular and often insufficient meals, and the terrible depression of constant attendance upon persons diseased in body, and, in consequence, often diseased in mind? How easy it is to discourse about perfection in *Nurses*, how seldom it is to meet such perfection in *human beings*. Let us be reasonable; by all means let us aim at a high ideal, but until sick humanity is a little more *humane*, do not let us condemn our much-trying colleagues *en masse*.—Yours,

SYMPATHY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have just read the letter in this week's NURSING RECORD, signed "Esprit de Corps," and I wonder why any woman should make such an uncharitable remark as she does about the "modern nurse." I think she must have been singularly unfortunate in meeting so many unpleasant nurses. I have been a nurse for the last twelve years, and still consider myself a "modern nurse," and if you will allow me, through your valuable little paper, I should like to tell Miss Landale, also "Esprit de Corps," and all who read this, that I took up Private Nursing because it pays better than Hospital or District Work, and yet I hope I am a good nurse, with a right spirit, and *not* an "unpleasant person"! After my three years' hospital training, I had a very happy year, doing District Nursing in the London slums, and it was a real grief to me to give it up; but it was absolutely necessary that I should be paid a larger salary, and so I had to give up the work I loved so much, and take to private work for the sake of the larger fees. I have continued it now for eight years, and I think I may safely tell Miss Landale and "Esprit de Corps," that I have been a *success*, and not a *failure*! In every house I have entered I have taken up my work meaning to be a real help to the patient and the friends, and I seldom, if ever, leave a house without feeling that my patient and his or her relations will be my firm friends for ever. Constantly I am told that I am the best nurse in the world! and only a short time ago a pa-

tient of mine died, after a very severe and painful illness, and I thought it very pathetic when the husband of my patient remarked some time after, "I thank God for sending me the best nurse in the world!" This sounds very conceited, no doubt, but on this occasion I must be my own "trumpeter," and also, those remarks do not make me vain. I know perfectly well what they mean, and I think it is most satisfactory, and a delightful idea, that each nurse should be to her own patient the *best* nurse in the world; and I know eight or ten of my own personal friends, all nurses, and I might say of each, that it is a privilege to have met such women, and to have been nursed by them—large hearted, broad minded, cheerful, helpful and firm, ever *acting* the good Samaritan; but they all receive the usual fee for private nursing. And so I hope I have been able to show that though I think a great deal of the money I am earning, I can also enter into my work with the desire to give all my strength and patience to those who come under my care; and I am only one of many.

I must apologise for writing such a long letter, but if you have room I should like your readers to know that a nurse can work quite as well, I think, when she is paid, as she could for the love of the work only.

Faithfully yours,

"A HAPPY HARD-WORKING NURSE,"  
M.R.B.N.A.

### THE LIVERPOOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with interest the remarks of a visitor to the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool. The institution is a splendid one, with an admirable Lady Superintendent, who has introduced many excellent reforms for the benefit of the nursing staff. But there is yet one change which I don't think has been made, but when accomplished will place the hospital in the very first rank as a Training School for Nurses, viz., when it ceases at the end of two years' training to send nurses out to private cases to work for the benefit of the institution, instead of allowing them to finish their training within the wards.—I am, yours, &c.,

F. R.

[We entirely agree with our correspondent, and do not doubt that the authorities of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary will soon see the justice of according to their nursing staff the advantages of three years' practical experience in the wards. During 1894, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, York County Hospital, Royal South Devon Hospital, Plymouth, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the London Homoeopathic Hospital, have all adopted the three years' standard advocated by the Royal British Nurses' Association, and approved by the Select Committee of the House of Lords.—ED.]

### REFUGE-NURSERIES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Could any of your readers tell me what system is *generally* and *successfully* employed in the organisation of refuge-nurseries for the children of the labouring classes in England, and also the names of any public nurseries in London for infants of the same class (and of the poor) that have achieved notable results for good. Information on this subject would *greatly* oblige.—Yours faithfully,

"A READER ABROAD."

February 6, 1895,

[If any of our readers can give the desired information we shall be pleased to receive it and to forward it to our correspondent.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)