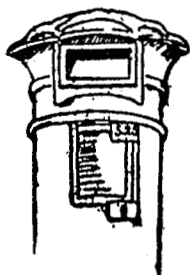


will, perhaps, interest our readers to hear that in the statistics of sales of books during the last month, among the new books "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" ranks first, second, or at least fourth in order of demand:

A. M. G.



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.

EARLY BREAKFASTS IN HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—May I testify in favour of the early breakfasts in hospitals? Patients who go to sleep at 8 p.m. are quite ready for breakfast at 5 a.m. and, those who have had bad nights will often get their best sleep after breakfast and bed-making. Of course a little discretion must be used in rousing any patient who may have had a bad night and only just dropped off to sleep, and as there is very little noise at any time in a well-managed ward this should not be difficult. I think the other "advantages" (?) may also be disposed of; (a) the ward would hardly be closed more than nine hours, so the artificial light would be used at night instead of in the morning; (b) the 5 a.m. breakfast is surely the most convenient for the Nurses, and it is the common experience of those on night duty to feel much fresher after 2 or 3 a.m.; the *getting up* and first part of the night are the weary times. I may add I have but rarely found the men complain of early breakfast, the women never. I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

"DORIS."

THE MODERN TRAINED NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—There are a few suggestive points in the Address on the above subject given by Sir Dyce Duckworth, to which I should like to call attention. He says "that not many women could afford to set apart four years, and they should consider very carefully what is the end in view in promoting training of so high a character."

The end in view is the elimination of charlatans from the profession, and the abolition of nursing quacks. I should like also to answer Sir Dyce's question—Yankee fashion—by the asking of another. "What is the end in view in promoting training of so high a character in the medical student?" A question which he could answer as well as we can answer his, and to the same end.

Does Sir Dyce seriously contend that we should have three grades of Nurses, "Trained Nurse," "Smattering Nurse" and "Quack Nurse," and that these shall have a definite relation to Good Income, Small Income, No Income? It seems to me like a suggestion of three grades of physicians—the highly qualified medical man to attend on the well-to-do, the unqualified medical man for the middle-class, and the herbalist or quack for those whose payments must necessarily be of the smallest.

According to him "There is a limit to the employment of the highest Trained Nurses." But might not this same argu-

ment be used as a reason for reducing the term of study and for simplifying and making more elementary the examinations of the medical students?

"Must they entirely discourage the work of the hundreds who never can attain to this high standard?" It is only by "discouraging" elementary grades that the medical profession has got rid of its barber-surgeons, its wizard and magic doctors, its charm workers and healing astrologers. And it is only by "discouraging" with a strong hand and a firm purpose the mushroom-grown Nurses that we shall attain to the professional ideal which animates the greater number of the leaders of the Nursing profession.

Sir Dyce speaks of "the Matron of high character and attainments—a mistress of her art, . . . free from all infirmities of temper and all fads." A woman to be all that must necessarily be a highly trained, a highly cultivated, broad minded woman, and one who would certainly be entitled to take an honoured place in the profession she would adorn.

Sincerely yours,

A BELIEVER IN A ONE-GRADE STANDARD.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, present at the lecture upon the "Modern Trained Nurse," lately delivered by Sir Dyce Duckworth, I should like to express my surprise at many of the sentiments enunciated by him before a Sessional Meeting of our professional Society. I listened, and left the room bitterly disappointed, and feel still that the depreciation of our standard of a three years' training and thorough curriculum of education for a Nurse should have been advanced in any other place rather than before an Association of women inspired—as I know every member of the Royal British Nurses' Association is—with strong professional feeling, and a keen sense of responsibility to our colleagues and the public.

Before commencing my Nursing education I consulted a lady well known for her devotion to nursing reform, and by her I was advised, at any cost, to "obtain a certificate of three years' training at a Nursing School, where the whole time would be spent under trained supervision in the wards," and "when certificated to register my qualification as a *public duty*." I acted upon this advice, waiting nearly a year to obtain admission to one of the Hospitals named, rather than train in an institution where, in return for a guinea a week, I could buy a Sistership in a few months, or where half my term would be spent as a private Nurse, earning funds for the Hospital—already amply provided for by the subscriptions of a liberal public.

A few months ago I was elected a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, having previously been registered, and must own that I received my certificate of registration with great pride and thankfulness, feeling that I had performed my duty to my fellow Nurses and the public in giving them a guarantee that as far as possible I had fitted myself, by a thorough and arduous training, to fulfil the responsible duties which would devolve upon me as a trained worker, and that I had gained the right to assume the title of Registered Nurse. Imagine, therefore, my feelings during the afore mentioned lecture, at which it was seriously suggested by Sir Dyce Duckworth—who I see is a member of the Registration Board—that there should be several grades of nurses, advancing as a reason for hauling down the standard upheld by the Association, that there are hundreds of women of less than three years' training doing excellent work, and with whom the medical men who employed them were satisfied! and also that the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses accepted a shorter and necessarily lower standard of training than that demanded by the Royal British Nurses' Association, and that, in consequence, the highly skilled Nurse was a superfluous luxury. I attended the lecture fully prepared to listen to an inspiring oration, encouraging Nurses to persevere in attaining to the highest standard of professional

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)