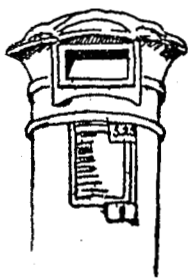


commence management in the autumn; and, finally, new parts in plays by Mr. Pinero and Herr Sudermann form the bait thrown out to lure her back to yet another theatre. In all probability Mr. Forbes-Robertson will be the fortunate man, and, in that case, a revival of 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Lyceum may confidently be anticipated."



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.

MR. H. C. BURDETT'S DIRECTORY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I can well understand that the above forthcoming classical production should awaken in the hearts and minds of my sister members of the Royal British Nurses' Association in the General Council or out of it, certain feelings of indignation. But I venture to take a slight exception to the proposed outward and visible manifestation of those feelings.

In my judgment a policy of aggression would be extremely undignified, and equally unwise, because useless. As well tilt at windmills—or shall we say in this case windbags?—as fulminate resolutions *à propos de bottes*, "that like the flowers that bloom in the spring" would have nothing to do with the case.

I cannot see that our Executive has any right to interfere with Mr. H. C. Burdett's commercial ventures, and his Nursing Directory is nothing more, nor prevent Nurses from putting their names in it, which is *their* venture.

To my mind we had better take up an attribute of calm and resolute defence of our present Register than concern ourselves about worthless travesties of it; and what is our defence?—that every Nurse member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, should exert all her influence, personal, professional, moral and material, not only over each other, but on those outside our ranks, who have so often and so generously come to our aid in times of stress, to help us here. Let us all give a loyal and steadfast support to our leaders, and strengthen their hands to obtain parliamentary powers to deal with our own Register, and make it strictly analogous to the Medical List.

In a paper I contributed to the NURSING RECORD many years since, I remarked, "The public have for generations had the protection of a medical profession, why not a Nursing profession as well?" What is the protection of the public in the former case? An authorised medical list drawn up by the leading members of the medical profession with boards of examiners formed therefrom. Just as this practical and common sense step has largely purged the medical profession of quacks and quackery, I contend that a similar measure, drawn up on similar lines will purge our ranks of sham Nurses and disguised quacks, and in this way the public will obtain protection in their Nursing as well as in their doctoring.

I commend these few suggestions to the thoughtful consideration of my sister members as a matter for practical and important discussion in a field of what our editor wisely calls "Nursing politics," bearing upon Nursing interests of the highest moment.

Yours truly,
MARIAN HUMFREY.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR "RECORDS"?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In bygone times I have been in the habit of clipping out interesting items and paragraphs from my "Record" (and I have now a really splendid collection), and then have consigned the outer husk to the waste-paper basket.

But I can do so no longer. My scissors, according to wonted habit, lingered longingly above my last week's copy, but I had not the heart to mutilate its beauty!

And then I bethought me of the many Nurses in the "outer darkness" who know little and care less for the "higher life" of the profession; and I remembered the vast number of medical men who are ignorant of the efforts that are being made to raise the standard and evolve the best in the training of our Nurses; and lastly I thought of the medical students of to-day who are the practitioners of to-morrow. And I am resolved that the scissors shall no longer sever, nor shall the waste basket receive the dissected members of my "Record." I intend each week to send it forth to Nurse, to doctor, and to student, itself a missionary to carry the gospel of good tidings—the tidings of what ideals we are aiming at and what standard we wish to reach. Co-operation and union are what we need. Therefore let us distribute the organ of Nursing progress, clothed as it is in its charming spring costume, and thus bring the outer heathen into our ever-widening circle.

Yours faithfully,
A PRACTICAL PERSON.

[We should advise our appreciative correspondent to take two copies—one for reading and distribution and the other for binding; she will find in the future, when the Nursing millennium has arrived, that "looking back" will interest a future generation of Nurses.—ED.]

A SUGGESTION

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I hope you will allow me, as an old subscriber, to congratulate you and ourselves on the new costume and setting of the NURSING RECORD. I used to think the paper a delightful pennyworth, but it really seems now as if we are getting too much for our money! It is said that a woman always puts the most important part of her letter in the postscript, and while I am not going to leave the true reason of my writing till the last line, I will frankly say that after the truly meant flattery of my first sentence I am now going to proffer a humble request.

Now that the paper is so much larger, do you think, dear Editor, that you could spare just a "wee bit space" for your more frivolous admirers? I am a Nurse with true professional instincts, and am so grateful to you for the Nursing politics you have introduced into the "Record." But we Nurses have so little time for reading that it *would* be so nice if we could sometimes hear a little about the fashion and the frivolity of the hour in "our own" paper. We all like the bread and butter of life and the solid fare, but few of us are proof against occasional jam and sweeties; so please, Madam Editor, will you let us have a little more sugar coating to the wise and able weekly edition of your paper, and let me sign myself under the pseudonym of

"CHIFFONS."

[We shall be pleased to hear the opinion of our readers on this question. We must not forget that the "Record" is a paper with a purpose—the organisation of Nursing into a legally constituted profession—and to effect that purpose it is desirable that it should be widely read, and the views and ambitions of Nurses therefore "understood of the people."—ED.]

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