

mended as a dressing for burns, of cobwebs to arrest hæmorrhage and other like remedies (?) one is apt to wonder if more harm than good is not done by some who undertake to teach this subject. I find a course of even twelve lectures none too long to devote exclusively to the subject of Home Nursing. A constant reference to the Doctor's orders is a salutary reminder that the Art of Nursing is the realization of the science of medicine, in many Ambulance lectures given by women the very existence of the medical and surgical professions is practically ignored.

I have always received great help from doctors, especially in country places, valuable hints as to local peculiarities and customs, encouragement and kindness, but in all my experience I have only once had the support of a medical man on the Technical Education Committee; this gentleman has retired from active practice and takes the keenest interest in the classes under his Committee's control with the result that they are always splendidly organised and uniformly successful: would that others would follow his example!

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
E. M. HOMERSHAM.

72, Mercers Road, Tufnell Park, N.

A SICK FUND FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I think many of we members of the Royal British Nurses' Association must have been specially interested in the RECORDS of the few past weeks; to me they have been full of interest.

It is high time that Nurses awoke to the necessity of keeping in touch with the outside world, and that they took a real interest in many of the important questions of the day.

The letters from two private Nurses in the RECORD of the 20th of April—on the duty of contentment—were to the point, and *necessary*. Whatever we private Nurses lose sight of, let it not be the great and solid advantages of our life. Of course we are often tired—very; and much is expected of us. We see the sad and seamy side of life, and the pain of the present often envelopes our souls as well as wearies our bodies. But I maintain that there is no other class of women workers who are in a position to gain that education which comes from living near to the heart of things, none that meet with so much kindness (*if* we try to be worthy of it), none that have such free scope for influence and usefulness. So, let us be contented; and keep our eyes open to the advantages, as well as the disadvantages of our life.

The "Cry of Hagar and Ishmael" is deeply interesting to me; most of the letters on the subject are true and to the point, but all your correspondents seem to lose sight of one fact, namely, if the disposal—either temporary or permanent—of illegitimate children, is made too easy to the women who bear them, will it not make vice easier?

Certainly the children should be cared for, fed, clothed, educated, and above all, *loved*. Most women go to extremes, they either act like the Levite, leaving such poor waifs to the mercy of a world which is notoriously cruel to *women* (not the men, alas!) who sin; or, they would put the illegitimate child on an equality with that born in marriage; this would not be just or right. I am eagerly looking out for further letters on the subject.

About three months ago I wrote a letter to the RECORD (which you most kindly suggested your approval of) suggesting that we, the members of the Royal British Nurses Association should join together to form a Sick or Benevolent Fund in connection with the Association. Week after

week I have looked for some response to my letter, but none has come.

Will Nurses ever awake to the necessity of helping themselves? The rainy day must come to many of us; surely it would be more sensible to prepare for it? I cannot possibly be the only Nurse who feels strongly on this subject; will not some fellow members express their opinion on the matter, and if they were in favour of it do you not think some of the committee would be found willing to undertake the onus of the management of such a scheme?

The literary notes are very good the last few weeks; I am glad no one was in favour of "Chiffon's" request. Papers abound and they are cheap, but we don't want our welcome RECORD spoiled by fashions. It is our brains and souls that want enlarging, not our sleeves or the width of our skirts, &c.

If you see fit to insert this hurriedly written letter I should be glad, and would sign myself,

ANOTHER HAPPY NURSE.

Holmwood, Surrey.

[We are warmly in favour of a Sick Fund in connection with our Association, and are glad to understand that such a scheme is to be considered by the Finance Committee. But if it is to succeed it must be largely self-supporting, and a personal interest must be shown in the project by the members themselves.—Ed.]

"NO NURSES ADMITTED."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am glad "Indignation" has made known her disagreeable experience in an hotel. I am sure Nurses are often annoyed at the way they are treated when Nursing in hotels. It often happens that the people with whom a Nurse is, do not care for her taking her meals with them. Why? They object to the extra expense if Nurse is charged for as a visitor. The Nurse is thought very "snobbish" if she refuses to go to the stewards' room. If she goes into the table d'hôte she is likely to be told "the room is kept only for visitors and that she can have her meals, either in the stewards' room, or her own bed room."

At the present time I am Nursing in an hotel, and it is only after making a fuss that I am permitted to take my meals in the small coffee room. My experience of bed room dinners is not pleasant!!

I assure you Madam, I have a very healthy appetite and am not fastidious, but bed room dinners in hotels are not appetising. There is nothing more disagreeable to a Nurse than having to complain about her food and where she should not take it.

Hotel Nursing is delightful when with people who can, and will treat you as a visitor. But people should not expect a Nurse to take her meals in the stewards' room, when they know they are forbidden by the rules of their Institutions to take them with the servants in private houses. I have often had to go through these disagreeables in hotels and have wondered what to do. I dislike making myself unpleasant to anyone. I am sure other Nurses have met with the same disagreeables, or I have been singularly unfortunate.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

C. L. CARTER.

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