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## SHAM NURSES AS LECTURERS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have been glad to see that the press—and therefore the public—are now somewhat alive to the danger of lecturers who have had a smattering of theoretical knowledge, being allowed to teach such essentially practical branches of knowledge as "First Aid" and "Sick Nursing." And I should like to give you some facts that have come under my actual observation of the casual manner in which so-called teachers of these important branches of knowledge are manufactured and appointed.

They are not made in Germany or, I may say, they would be better made.

I am myself engaged in educational work which takes me into many counties, and brings me into contact with others engaged in educational pursuits, so that I hear steadily of what is done under the Technical Education scheme. In nearly all subjects the County Council deserve the highest praise for their enterprise and thoroughness, but I am compelled to say that in the few subjects that are arranged for women's classes, there is not much care and caution. There seems almost to be an impression that any sort of teaching will do for women, especially for poor women—alas, poor women!

I think I am justified in giving a few of these facts I refer to. I could, of course, give names and chapter and verse for what I say, but such a course would be as uncalled for as it would be unfair. I will, therefore, briefly touch on points that lead me to assert that not sufficient care is taken in choosing the teachers for these "Women's Subjects."

In Somerset, a member of the Technical Education Committee informed me that the instructor of cookery and laundry, after three months in a Scotch infirmary, was appointed lecturer on Sick Nursing.

A clergyman on a similar Committee in the vicinity of Salisbury assured me that their lecturer on Home Nursing had presented as her qualification a letter of recommendation from a pupil of a former class, and to silence my doubts as to this guarantee of competency, he showed me the letter!

In Hunts a schoolmaster of the Board School with a St. John's Ambulance certificate has been lecturing on First Aid, for the County Council, and in Suffolk the mistress of a Board School, without any qualification whatsoever, has been giving, recently, lessons on Home Nursing.

In one part of Dorset the lecturer holds the diploma of the Sanitary Institute—a most valuable diploma for Public Health and Sanitation—but this lady with that diploma, and on the strength of being related to one of the County Councillors—now also an M.P.—is engaged to teach Sick Nursing.

In Bucks, no Nursing experience seems to be required from the lecturers on Home Nursing.

In Herts, one of the lecturers is a highly qualified Nurse, while two others engaged are only Ambulance pupils.

The Middlesex County Council does not demand that the lecturers on First Aid, Hygiene and Nursing should have had hospital training, and the London County Council has been equally indifferent on the matter—some of their Nursing lecturers being only Probationers.

In two towns in Sussex, the lady lecturer is not a Nurse, and in Surrey they are only first class Ambulance pupils.

So you see, Madam, I can give instances of ten counties

where insufficiently trained lecturers have been engaged. I feel sure that in many counties this state of things does not prevail, and I can instance some. In Cambridge the County Council have never engaged a teacher who is not a certificated Nurse and an experienced lecturer. In Hunts, I took the trouble to look up the record of the ladies lecturing there, and found them both to be highly qualified women. I believe that in the Lindsey division of Lincolnshire a high standard is required in the lecturer, but in the Kesteven division I am told it is not so.

I think it would be interesting and instructive if others of your readers would give their experiences, and give us hope also that in other counties than these I have named, the County Council Technical Education Committees demand that lecturers on subjects involving public health and public safety, shall have qualified themselves by practical experience and study in the subjects they wish to teach.

Yours sincerely,  
 AN ORGANISER OF TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

## HOSPITAL ENGAGEMENTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am a "rank outsider" so far as the nursing world is concerned, but, seeing a letter in the RECORD—a paper I always take and always enjoy—on the subject of hospital engagements, I venture to join in the fray.

On the principle of "a touch of nature making the whole world kin," I beg to claim a sympathetic kinship with the writer of that letter, who very justly complains that she is put beyond the pale of her profession as a Nurse in Hospital just because she follows out a natural instinct and becomes engaged!

I am exactly in the same predicament, but instead of being a Nurse I am a student at the most admirable art school in the British Isles—of course I cannot give you its name.

"Oh!" the prospective partner of "Jack the house-surgeon" will say, "then you are all right. There are sure to be no restrictions on engagements in an art school." "Indeed, my dear," I should answer, were I privileged to meet Jack's chosen, "you are wrong. The Professor is most strict. "My school is intended for the production of artists and not for the training of wives," he invariably says when an engagement is reported to him at headquarters, and forthwith the young woman—not the young couple—has to go. So that when I became engaged to *my* Jack (his name is in reality Claude, which I think is much more suitable to an artist; Jack is *very* good for a house-surgeon, of course) discretion formed the better part of my valour, and I said nothing about it at headquarters. I knew, were I to do so, that no treaties or even tears would be of any avail; because, although the dear Professor is most kind and sympathetic, and we are all devoted to him, on this one point he is inexorable. He is sternness itself to any woman whom he suspects of putting a "mere man" before her art. Now, I have no intention of doing this. I mean to devote myself to my work; I mean to sacrifice no shred of artistic enthusiasm to domesticity. I believe that a woman may be a great artist and a good wife and mother. I cannot see why a baby should everlastingly stand between me and my portraits. If I have any children I shall try and put some of the beauty of motherhood into my pictures; if they are pretty I shall take them as types in all the stages, from infancy to sweet seventeen, and shall portray all their charms and winsome ways on canvas. But, were I to suggest this to our delightful Professor, he would doubtless smile at my enthusiasm, but I fear he would take no further interest in me as an artist. So I say nothing about my engagement, and I try my utmost to be a hard-working student in spite of being an "engaged person."

Occasionally Claude and I wend our way to the London picture galleries, pencils and note-books in hand wherewith to note and jot down "effects" and high-lights and half-

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