

especially I refer to those in the country districts. I have been lecturing for the past three years in Devonshire, and really the extraordinary statements I am met with, sometimes, are quite beyond belief.

I am, yours truly,
E. WILLIAMSON.
M. R. B. N. A.

Exeter,
May 23rd, 1895.

WOMEN AS LECTURERS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am much interested and very glad to see the discussion which has been opened in your valuable paper concerning "County Council Lecturing," and only hope it may be fruitful.

I should like to give a few facts concerning lecturing as it is carried on in Kent as far as my branch is concerned.

In 1893 Nursing Lectures were started, and the Committee employed lecturers from a Society, six in number. I was appointed also, being a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and belonging to no other Society. In 1894 the Committee gave up employing the lecturers from the Society, and engaged lecturers all belonging to the British Nurses' Association. In 1895 the Committee had only enough work for one lecturer, and this all devolved on me.

The desire of the Committee and the Secretary is to have as thorough teaching as possible. The classes consist of a lecture of an hour, followed by a practice class of another hour, limited to sixteen pupils. At the end of the course these classes are all examined by medical men. Those who gain a certificate (which is decided by the medical men), and wish to take up Nursing as their profession, are eligible for scholarships given by the Committee, there being at the end of the session a more advanced course which is called the Scholarship Course.

The lectures have hitherto been divided between "First Aid" and Nursing, but I must say I thoroughly agree with Miss Homersham in thinking that these subjects should be taught separately, and that ten or twelve lectures are really required for Nursing alone.

Judging from my experience, I am assured on all hands of the benefit and use the pupils have derived from the classes. And the interest shown in the subject may be gathered from the fact that in nearly all cases they have asked for and had a second course, and some have asked for a third.

I shall be very glad of information as to the salary that ought to be expected by a lecturer, and also, should a lecturer be paid the same for two lectures a week as for ten, if engaged to lecture for one Committee alone?

Miss Kenealy lately suggested the formation of a Society of Lecturers for British Nurses' Association members. I think this would be a most valuable means of comparing notes and assisting each other in improving the teaching, but to be of service it should be composed of Nurses alone, as our lectures must be professional, and the experience of lecturers on art, history, or even cooking, would not be of great service.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
HELEN FOOTE,
M. R. B. N. A.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The NURSING RECORD being our only professional paper, and, by your kind liberality, always open for the expression of every shade of opinion, may I crave space for a few words on a subject which I venture to think of serious import to all members of the Royal British Nurses'

Association? I would speak of the lamentable state of affairs partially revealed by recent Council meetings of the Royal British Nurses' Association. The Association seems doomed to ill fortune. In its infancy it was attacked on all sides and nearly annihilated when it had barely begun to breathe; through varied fortunes it attained its majority, as one may term the Charter. It then shone forth in full splendour, courted and sought after by all, even its former opponents, its ranks swelled by those who, if they had not hindered, had certainly not assisted in securing its triumph. Its future appeared to spread out an alluring promise of successful onward movement accomplishing, surely if slowly, and without let or hindrance, its many noble aims for the benefit and advancement of its members. Now, however, the fair prospect is marred, clouds have descended upon it, we know not whence, and out of the darkness lurid lights of discord and trouble have shot their baleful rays on our amazed senses.

If it be incontrovertible that "union is strength," we cannot help asking with anxious hearts what may be the result—how widespreading the evil—of the reverse of that condition? This not being a case in which onlookers see most of the game, it is impossible for us to know what is the real state of affairs, and we cannot judge where the blame lies, nor what the cause of trouble is; but the bitter fact remains that the status of the Association is being lowered in the eyes of the public, and consequently the interests of the Nurses injured. If a member of no importance might be allowed to make a suggestion, it would be that Nurses might with advantage be allowed some voice in the ruling of their own affairs—that instead of being taken care of and wrapped up in cotton wool, to the detriment of mind and body, they be permitted, like healthy children, to learn to walk by themselves, even if in acquiring the desirable art they meet with many a tumble and rough knock.

"A MEMBER OF NO IMPORTANCE."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—For the last few months a feeling of apprehension concerning the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association has existed in the minds of many of the older members—caused by the knowledge which has become public, that strong differences of opinion concerning its methods of business have arisen in the Executive Committee. We Members of the Council are kept so entirely in ignorance of the inner workings of the Association, and are met with such discourteous discouragement if we venture to speak at the meetings of the Council, that the majority of those who helped to found the Association "for mutual support" have ceased to take any interest in its proceedings, beyond forwarding our annual subscriptions and hoping for better times.

The heated discussion in the April Council Meeting, and the exposure there of the methods of management, inspire me with the temerity to inquire if it is true that for the future the Nurses are to be denied all participation in the government of their own Association, and are merely to be called upon periodically to supply the funds.

I have this week received my voting paper for the new Council. As I gather from the proposed list that most of the Matrons, whose presence on the Committee inspire us Nurses with confidence, are to be removed, might I also inquire what leaders of our profession are to take their places, to constitute a Registration Board and Executive Committee, to whom we may look for professional opinion and judgment.

"A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)