

the matter was already under consideration, and so I am sure we shall get it in time. I hope we shall not have to wait very long, as I am getting impatient to begin saving in case a rainy day comes, and it seems so impossible to save really unless the money is safely out of sight and mind.

It is to be hoped we shall not all be old and grey-headed before our Sick Fund is in working order.

I am, yours truly,
L. B.

REST.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Will you allow me through the medium of your paper to suggest that a short rest at the end of each six months would prove a boon to the overworked and weary Nurse. Only those who are engaged in hospital life can know how great the strain, both mental and physical, twelve months' hard work means, the average time on duty being from ten to twelve hours.

The mind and body become simply worn out, the patient cannot get the proper attention, in fact, no portion of the work can be done with the necessary thoroughness, and a really conscientious Nurse goes off duty knowing how very superficially her work has been done, and the cause being physical incapacity.

Besides this, a Nurse ought always to be cheerful, good-tempered, and patient, and although tired should not have the weakness to mention so trivial a matter, it being considered (by most matrons) un-nurse-like to have the feelings of an ordinary human being. Of course there are some women who become Nurses simply because it is a profession, and "quite respectable," forgetting that labour of any kind when well done is honourable.

The question is, why should women have such long hours? and why is their work considered inferior to that of the nobler sex? The fault, to a certain extent, lies with the woman herself, because she fails to put her heart into her work, and frequently retains the old-fashioned notion that marriage will eventually be her lot. Women of this description cannot fail to be load stones, and the unfortunate man who happened to fall in with one of these useless creatures is to be pitied.

I think you will agree with me that this subject deserves consideration; perhaps some of the readers of the RECORD will take it up, and so show their sympathy with a

"TIRED WORKER."

WOMEN LECTURERS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have for many years taken a deep interest in the work of technical education, and my experience at home and abroad has made me aware that we English are far behind Continental countries in giving to the workers the systematic training that most perfectly develops the skilled craftsman and the artist workman. I have followed the development of the technical education scheme in England with increasing interest, and I firmly believe that the zeal and energy displayed by the organising secretaries, and the committees they act for, will, before another generation, remedy these defects in our national system of technical training.

But I need hardly mention in a professional journal that thoroughness is needed in every branch of instruction taught, and I do not hesitate to say that classes arranged for the instruction of women require as much skilled teaching as do classes arranged for men. Technical education is of national importance, and national questions affect both sexes equally, so that I am glad public attention has been called to a matter that might not otherwise have appealed very strongly to the masculine mind.

Just lately many journals throughout the country have contained comments and correspondence on "County Council Lecturers," which arose out of an address given before the Royal British Nurses' Association on "Women as Lecturers." From these press opinions it appears indisputable that in many cases the guardians of technical education have been persuaded by certain societies into accepting as teachers on such vital subjects as "First Aid to the Injured," "Sick-nursing," and "Hygiene," ladies who have acquired a smattering of theoretical knowledge by attending a series of lectures; and it also appears that in many cases these ambulance pupils have no guarantee of competency in the elementary knowledge required from such pupils, beyond the certificate of the particular society that sends them out.

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? It is time some inquiry was made, and I hold it a benefit to the public, as well as to the technical education committees themselves, that the matter has appeared in the press. The work entailed on the individual County Councillor is too arduous to allow him to become conversant with each branch of the many-branched tree of knowledge cultivated as technical education, so that it seems to me well that inquiry has been roused on the matter, so that in the future the secretaries acting for the educational committees may be trusted to be on the alert, and to thoroughly investigate the qualifications of would-be lecturers on sick nursing, first aid, and hygiene, subjects which may involve public health and public safety.

It is welcome, therefore to find an important body like the National Health Society allowing it to be publicly stated that their curriculum does not qualify a woman without full training as a Nurse to become a County Council lecturer. A trained Nurse is not necessarily a good lecturer; but an educated woman who has had three years' experience in a large general hospital, and has also gone through the National Health Society's training, may be trusted to know the needs of the working classes, and to have a fair idea of making them understand the subjects she is an expert on. So many, including myself, were glad, at the annual meeting of the National Health Society, held at Grosvenor House on May 11th, to hear the speakers from the platform condemn the practice of any but trained Nurses being engaged to teach those subjects. Dr. E. Seaton, medical officer of health to the Surrey County Council, especially spoke in strong terms of the need of certificated Nurses to teach Nursing; and Sir Dyce Duckworth, no doubt alarmed lest the 260 recipients of certificates and medals should set forth and storm the country as County Council lecturers, warned them impressively that these National Health Society awards only marked their *first step* in the studies they were about to enter on.

Now these views many cordially endorse. For many years I have been myself, I may say, an expert on certain educational matters; I distrust amateur teaching, and my work having taken me into many counties where these ambulance pupils have been intrusted with the teaching of vital subjects—such as sick nursing and first aid to the injured—to the poor and ignorant—and the majority are ignorant on such questions—I have many facts coming under my observations of the disastrous follies and ignorances these untaught, inexperienced, text-book-crammed young persons have committed when brought face to face with the realities of the lecture room, and the unlooked-for inquiries of the audience before them.

I am pleased, therefore, that the County Councils are now alive to a state of things that, had it existed long enough, would have brought into disavour, not to say disrepute, a branch of technical instruction at the same time most valuable to and most popular amongst women of all classes.

Yours, &c.,

AN EXAMINER ON TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

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