

DR. W. S. MAVOR'S POEMS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In the extract, which closed my review of Dr. W. S. Mavor's Poems in your impression of last week, two or three lines were printed not quite in accordance with the original text. This discrepancy arose from the fact that I had devised an alteration of the said text, in order to obviate some objections raised in a Notice of the book given in the columns of your contemporary, *Punch*, and that my copyist had substituted the said alteration for the original words, seeing that the latter had been crossed out in pencil. I cannot but think that the Author of the poems—especially in view of their generally elegant versification—might easily afford to accept the alteration, receiving it in the spirit in which Horace recommends a discreet writer to accept honest criticism, when he says in the second book of his Epistles,

At qui legitimum cupiet fecisse poema,
Cum tabulis animum censoris sumet honesti.

But be this as it may, I must ask you, as a matter of courtesy to Dr. Mavor, to kindly print the lines alluded to as they actually stand in his book. Yours obediently,

THE REVIEWER.

P.S.—The lines run in the original as follows:—

Flit thou along on softly feathered feet,
Noiseless, thou shadowy-pinioned minister,
And gently fan, with midnight gale, my sweet,
Lest thou awaken her.

Low elfin-music breathe about her; dance!
Her smiling heart float in with revelry;
Of lotus land with love-desires entrance.
So, in her dreaming, it may hap that she
Straightway, and with a gracious countenance
Shall picture me!

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Training," Birmingham.—If you gain the certificate, and the Matron will recommend you, the training which you are receiving will qualify you for membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association. The full three years should be spent under trained supervision in the wards of a Hospital or Infirmary where a training school for Nurses exists.

Miss A. F. Toole, Brighton.—Write to the Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, London, W. The Committee will not sit again

until October. We receive so many letters daily that we must make a rule of answering questions such as yours through the medium of this Journal.

Mrs. Rideout, London.—We give some information concerning the meeting of the Union of Women Workers this week. The Congress, which will take place at Nottingham, includes a paper on Rural District Nursing by Mrs. Edward Edmunds, which will doubtless be interesting to you, and the subject is one upon which there is a great diversity of opinion.

"Sister Emily," Dublin.—Write to Mrs. Andrews, Hon. Secretary Matrons' Council, 22, Cheyne Gardens, Chelsea, S.W.; she will send you a copy of the questions. We quite agree with you that we require much more thoroughness in the performance of the practical details of Nursing, and that it is most essential that the greater part of the elementary teaching of the theory should be given before the probationer begins ward work. We believe the combination has been one reason of the great overstrain which has incapacitated so many probationers in the past. We are glad to note the strong professional tone of your letter. It is that feeling which has inspired our Association in the past, and made it the power it has become, and without which it will be devoid of influence. It has been lack of self-respect amongst women generally which, in the past, has deprived them of their great human rights, and developed parasitical proclivities which it may take generations to eradicate.

Miss McKenzie, Nottingham.—Three years' consecutive training and certification in the London Homœopathic Hospital qualifies for Registration and membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association. No arrangement can be entered into for joining the Registered Nurses' Society until after you are Registered by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Miss Emily Anderson, Leeds (with enclosure).
- B. Miss Bowers, Birmingham.
- C. Mrs. Chester, Norwich (with enclosure).
- D. Miss Alice Dannatt, Barton-on-Humber (with enclosure).
Miss L. L. Dock, Harrisburg, U.S.A.
- E. "Sister Emily," Dublin.
- M. Miss McKenzie, Nottingham.
- R. Mrs. Rideout, London (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Agnes Snively, Toronto.
- T. Miss A. F. Toole, Brighton. Miss Jane Thompson,
Boston, U.S.A. Miss A. Tomkins, Calcutta,
"Training," Birmingham.
- Y. Miss Alice Yates, East Finchley (with enclosure).

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