

define our aims and needs, and we who have been working to this end, at last see our work begun in a definite way and placed on a fair basis. "Asylum attendants" hitherto have suffered in many ways—professionally, individually and socially—from the want of public recognition and from a want of a definite programme as to our training. Of course we fully expect some opposition—we are quite prepared to meet with obstacles and stumbling blocks. But these we will overcome; and we are determined to unite and organise our widely scattered units into one large body with professional ambitions and a high sense of the important work towards humanity which is entrusted to us. The NURSING RECORD is very much appreciated in the asylum in which I am now working.

Sincerely yours,
AN EARNEST ASYLUM WORKER.

ROYAL ALBERT EDWARD INFIRMARY, WIGAN.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I trust you will allow me to correct an error in the account you give, in your last issue, of the little difficulty that has arisen at this Hospital over the Nurses' recreation, and annual holidays. Mr. Campbell's amendment was not carried. Out of a full Board of sixteen members, Mr. Campbell could only get two supporters, and his unconstitutional proposal, that the Nurses should be allowed to vote on a question of discipline, was ruled out of order. Mr. Campbell then gave notice that at their next meeting he would move a resolution that the decision of the Board (which had been carried by *twelve to three*) be rescinded. From the first hour of my taking office here, I have received the greatest encouragement, kindness and consideration at the hands of my Committee, and there is not a Nurse in the Institution who would not willingly bear testimony to having received the same treatment from them. However much one may regret the actions of an individual member, it would be in the highest degree unjust to my Board, to allow it to be believed that they would let me be placed in the position I should have been in had Mr. Campbell's proposal been entertained, and I can unhesitatingly say that the Nurses would resent the insult to me quite as much as they do being placed on a par with the co-operatives whom the *weekly half holiday* movement is intended to benefit. We wish to move with and act up to the spirit of the times in the Hospital world, and we have no *desire* to be classed or associated with trades unionists or political agitators. The addition to their annual holiday, which in the case of the Sisters has been doubled, is very much appreciated by the staff, and the whole day once a month, with permission to have *breakfast in bed!* has been pronounced by a large majority of the Nurses to be infinitely preferable to the seven and a half hours once a week. Thanking you for the kind notice you have taken of the improvement the Board has made in the accommodation and comfort generally of the Nurses during the last five years, and trusting that you may be able to find room for my letter in your widely-read paper, believe me, dear Madam,

Very faithfully yours,

K. V. MACINTYRE.

July 22nd, 1895.

[We again venture to hope, for the sake of maintaining discipline and good order in the Wigan Infirmary, that should Mr. Campbell propose his resolution at the next meeting of the Board, it will find no seconder.—ED.]

IS THERE A FAULT IN THE TRAINING?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—A lay reader of your Journal asks a pertinent question in last week's issue: Is there a fault in the Training? and as a professional person I should answer unhesitatingly, yes! The one great cardinal fault in the majority of Hospitals where Nurses are trained, is lack of systematic teaching, the result no doubt, of no uniform curriculum, or standard of education for Nurses, the result being

that in the majority of Hospitals instruction given by the Sisters in the wards is a voluntary duty, and it entirely depends upon the sense of duty possessed by a Sister, whether the Probationers are taught their practical work or not, or gain their knowledge by experience as best they can. Last year I followed with very great interest the letters and articles in the Matrons in Council column, headed: "What is a Trained Nurse?" and have been hoping to see some result amongst our Metropolitan Nursing Schools, from the very valuable suggestions made by your contributors, concerning the systematic training of Nurses, but with the exception of the London Hospital, which has adopted many of the suggestions, greatly to the advantage of their future Nurses, without however conforming to the principle of a three years' course of practical work in the wards before certification, the other schools have not yet made much progress. We Nurses naturally look to the Matrons to suggest and try and inaugurate Nursing reforms, and we shall hope great things in the future from the Matrons' Council.

"L. M. S."

"NICETIES OF NURSING."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am very glad you have called attention in your able Journal to the very great room there is for improvement in the "Niceties of Nursing," both in Hospital and private practice. As a "Sister in charge" of two large wards in a Metropolitan Hospital, I have reason to wish that your article on the "Niceties of Nursing" could be printed in letters of gold and presented to every Probationer who enters any Hospital. Now, the curious part of it is that these enterprising young persons frequently come from the most charming and refined homes, where it would appear on the surface—in fact one would take it for granted—as if every detail of life were conducted with the utmost "nicety." And yet what tales one could tell of the want of cleanliness and refinement evinced by those "young ladies." There is the "showy" variety. These sacrifice everything to appearance and glitter. They will devote a quarter of an hour to the curling of a pretty child's hair—quite regardless of the fact that the *head* needs a good application of turpentine and carbolic. The finger-nails will be carefully trimmed—investigation shows that the feet badly need washing. The ward often will be kept extremely tidy: the outside of the platter beautifully clean—but an investigation of the lockers, or a peep behind the *front* row of the bottles in the medicine cupboard will reveal such a condition of things as is calculated to ruffle the external demeanour of a tidy-minded Sister. My experience is that "as is the Probationer, so will be the Nurse," and unless the new Pro. is *capable* of being taught the beauties of "niceties" in her work in the first three months, there will not be a great deal of improvement shown in the after part of her training.

Yours gratefully,

A SISTER WITH TIDY INSTINCTS.

TEN BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Journal of Researches on the Voyage in the "Beagle"	Darwin.
Natural Law in the Spiritual World	Drummond.
Adam Bede	G. Eliot.
Pickwick Papers... .. .	Dickens.
The Last Sentence	Maxwell Grey.
God and the Man	Buchanan.
Hard Cash	Charles Reade.
Esmond	Thackeray.
Vanity Fair	"
Innocents Abroad	M. Twain.

S. G. R.

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