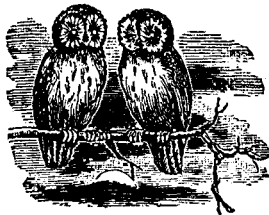


Matrons in Council.

The Matrons' Council.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."



DEAR MADAM,— There was one point brought out in answer to the questions sent out by the Matrons' Council concerning Nursing Education, which I think it would be well to discuss, and that was in connection with the clinical instruction given by the Sister to the Probationers in the ward. Now, in very few Hospitals with which I am acquainted (I have worked in four) is there any definite regulation given to the Sister concerning this part of her duties—and indeed it is one which has grown up with the modern system of Nursing—without any scope being defined. Surely, if the Sister is to be the educator of numerous relays of Probationers, as well as the caretaker of the sick, she should receive increased remuneration for a never-ending most laborious task. In my Probationer days—some fifteen years ago—the Sisters in whose wards I was trained gave no systematic clinical teaching, and we considered ourselves lucky if the Staff-Nurse could find time now and then in the rush of work to impart a little practical instruction. More often than not we were met with the words, "I've no time to be talking; you must pick up as I did." As a rule, a Sister had so much female raw material sent into her ward, which she licked into shape (for her own peace and comfort) with as little delay as possible. This task accomplished, the Nurses were permanently stationed in her ward, soon got used to her ways and wishes—and those of the attending doctors—and things moved smoothly along. But that was before the days of Training Schools. Now, in our Hospital wards the majority of Probationers and Nurses are constantly on the move, and added to a Sister's duties which modern medical science has enormously accelerated—she is also a teacher. Now that we are hearing on all sides rumours of improved education, preliminary and clinical, for the future Nurse, is it not time for the Committees of Hospitals to take into consideration the fact that, if at the head of each ward they desire to possess a Sister who has both the knowledge and power to impart knowledge, they must certainly raise the salaries of the generality of Hospital Sisters? The Medical Staff receive distinct fees from the Medical Students in return for clinical instruction, and if the Nursing education of the future is to be really efficient, the Sisters should be paid definite fees—preferably from the Hospital Authorities as part of their salary—for clinical instruction to the Probationers. When it is recognised that a Sister in many of our leading Hospitals only receives in cash £30 a year, I feel sure many would welcome the additional salary which should in justice be given in return for this additional duty of teaching which has of late years been imposed upon them.

Hoping that this point will not be lost sight of by the Matrons' Council when the programme for uniform education is defined,

I remain, yours truly,
A MEMBER.

THE Matrons' Council had reason to feel the utmost satisfaction at the result of their experiment to institute a Post-Graduate Course of Practical Demonstrations on Nursing, the first of which was given on Monday evening, December 16th, in the College of Surgeons' Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment.

Some time before the appointed time, Miss Bristow, Sister of Martha Ward at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who was to lecture on "The Nursing of Gynæcological Cases," busied herself with arranging on the table a collection of dainty and interesting dressings, syringes, gauzes, ovariectomy belts and mackintoshes, and the varied paraphernalia which modern gynæcological practice calls for.

By the time the lecture was due, the room was filling rapidly, and shortly after, there was not a vacant chair, the number present being upwards of eighty. These comprised many leading Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses. It is an excellent sign of the times to be able to attract so large an audience bent on adding to their professional knowledge.

The Matrons' Council hope to make the lectures inaugurated by them as practical as possible, and intend, in each branch, to have the best expert teaching available. The success attending the inaugural gathering points clearly to the establishment in the near future of Preliminary Education for Nurses, to be supplemented by logical sequence by Post-Graduate Courses.

Miss Bristow delivered the lecture in a most charming manner, her elocution being so good that not a word was lost.

Everyone present expressed the utmost pleasure with the lecture and all its practical points, and a unanimous hope was heard that Miss Bristow will soon again give her colleagues the benefit of her wide experience and knowledge in Gynæcological Nursing.

Miss Isla Stewart, who was in the chair, made a short introductory speech.

A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION ON GYNÆCOLOGICAL NURSING.

BY MISS BRISTOW.

Sister of Martha Ward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

LADIES,—I would ask your kind indulgence for what is, not so much a paper as we understand the term, but more correctly, a few thoughts from a Nurse to fellow Nurses upon one of the most interesting branches of our profession, viz., Obstetric Nursing.

The subject is so wide, embracing as it does medical, surgical and gynæcological work, that to do more than touch upon some of its most prominent points, would be impossible in the brief space allotted to us for its consideration this evening. To deal with it thoroughly a whole series of papers might be written, and an entire Session occupied in their discussion.

While we watch with interest and satisfaction the immense strides which medical and surgical Nursing have made, and are still making, and while our physicians and surgeons are telling us that the success of their treatment, operative and otherwise, is largely due to the excellence of modern Nursing in carrying out the strict detail of their treatment, it is with equal satisfaction we find obstetric Nursing steadily keeping

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)