

More resolutions are put, more amendments are suggested. Members are getting confused with all the conflict of opinion. Tempers are not improving, angry words arise, loud voices are heard, several persons speak at once. Nurses and medical men, both unaccustomed to political assemblies and rowdy meetings, lose their heads, and in all this tumult and uproar vote one way or the other without well knowing which side they are supporting. Indeed, if in the excitement and turmoil one can keep one's head cool, one may see medical men and Nurses alike voting both for and against the same resolution utterly bewildered. Then the Royal President rises, the meeting is dissolved, and the members separate.

Now I have given here a plain, unvarnished account of what takes place at the Quarterly meetings, and I think it is instructive to those who have the power of electing members to sit on the General Council, as showing the difficulties in the way of all who are endeavouring to uphold the interests of the Nursing profession, and to maintain the Constitution of the Royal British Nurses' Association in its purity and integrity.

Yours faithfully,  
H. M. KENEALY.

#### ENDOWED BEDS FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—*Apropos* of a letter in the last week's RECORD, I see in the *Trained Nurse* for January a very sympathetic letter from an American Nurse relating to the sad case of an English Nurse who became insane while working in Pittsburgh. I clip the letter which follows:—

"Miss E. C.—, a trained Nurse, who came to this country about three years ago from London, England, was sent to the insane department of the poor-farm yesterday. She had been a patient at the Allegheny General Hospital, but her actions had recently become so violent that she could not be controlled there. She had an operation performed recently with unfavorable results. She is well connected in the old country."

This clipping is from a Pittsburgh paper. It shows a condition of affairs that each Nurse should endeavour to rectify. It causes a shudder to know that one who has performed the hard and exhausting work of a Nurse, should in her illness be thrown among strangers; and cast aside to be cared for as are all inmates of an insane department of an alms-house. Sick, demented, a stranger thrown in with the most neglected and unfortunate of all human creatures. How many Nurses would like the same fate? If there existed a National Association this Nurse would never become a pauper. Yet Nurses as a body fail to see the great benefits to be derived from such an organisation. There are many Nurses who are not able to meet the bills incurred during sickness; either dependent upon friends or a public charge is surely not a desirable position.

How many Nurses are willing to aid in changing this state of affairs? How many are willing to enter

into an organisation which will be of mutual benefit in health and sickness? That a Nurse should become a pauper is a disgrace to our profession. Surely the question of organisation should be considered with more interest. How many similar cases are necessary before the subject can be given attention?

E. O. TITUS."

I think this correspondent has put the case so eloquently that I have ventured to quote all her letter, and must express my thanks to her for the very sympathetic and suggestive tone of her letter, and the admirable remedy she proposes to meet such cases.

Sincerely yours,  
AN INVALID NURSE.

#### DO NURSES READ NEWSPAPERS?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I know nothing of Nurses, but suppose they are very like other women. And I would just like to express some of the feeling I have been suppressing of late with regard to the fearful apathy of women when great political crises are taking place. My occupation leads me to take many railway journeys and "the woman on the railway platform" may learn a good deal if she keeps her eyes open. At the large London railway stations during the last three weeks when national and international questions have been pressing close and patriotic feeling has been stirred to a very unusual extent, it occurred to me that by watching the bookstalls I might very fairly gauge by their purchases the amount of interest in great affairs that had reached the feminine soul. Surely, I thought, at a time like this she will put aside her gew-gaw literature and invest instead in serious, substantial newspapers, which will tell her how her country stands in relation to other nations.

But she did not! When we thinking people were holding our breath as to the possible outcome of the American and English difficulty, when Armenians were being massacred in thousands, when we waited anxiously for the action President Kruger would take on Jameson's ride, when the German Emperor practically insulted the British flag and warships were called out, did the average woman lose her composure?

Not at all. She smilingly bought at the bookstalls, and read complacently in the trains, "Farthing Chit-Chat," "Penny Gossip," "Fashion's Furbelows," "Young Ladies' Repository," &c., while by her side eager, intelligent men studied and watched the progress of events with keen-eyed interest.

How are we to extricate women from the Slough of Apathy?

Sincerely yours,  
PATRIA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I quite agree with Reading Sister that the ignorance of Nurses on matters of Imperial and National interest is decidedly appalling.

But I want to ask if most women are not terribly apathetic about public affairs? I live in a large town twenty miles from London, and am surprised to find how "provincial" the women are, though by using this common expression I think we do the "provincials" a great injustice since my experience has been that the women of the provinces, especially the Northern provinces, are particularly well-informed.

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