

Nurse working on the staff of a good general Hospital—where each member of the medical staff adopts a speciality and is in consequence called in when a Nurse happens to be ill. Of course, in a Fever Hospital the medical officers are right to seek for an expert opinion from an outside specialist if the gravity of the case necessitates a special operation or treatment. Thanking you in anticipation for your courtesy in printing my letter,

I am,
Yours sincerely,
A FEVER NURSE.

NURSES AND TEMPERANCE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was present at Grosvenor House at the meeting held for Nurses under the auspices of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, and no doubt much that was said was sound, both morally and physiologically. Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson said in his paper that, "The sick Nurse required protection from every kind of alcoholic beverage. They had experience to guide them. Over twenty years ago an experiment was made in the establishment of a Hospital where there should be no kind of stimulant for Nurses or patients. The experience gained in the conduct of the London Temperance Hospital was evidence that alcohol was absolutely unnecessary. He had been acquainted with the duties of sick Nurses for half a century, and he never knew those duties so well performed as when the Nurse dispensed absolutely with the use of alcohol. The temperance Nurse was the best, the healthiest, and the most cheerful."

Now, I listened to the statement that "he never knew nursing duties so well performed as when the Nurse dispensed absolutely with the use of alcohol" with some amazement, because I fail to see what ground there can be for his conclusions. On what data does he base the comparison? And has any comparison ever been made? Sir Benjamin cites the London Temperance Hospital as an example. But surely he does not seriously mean us to understand that there is better Nursing done there where alcohol is not allowed, than at all the large Training Schools in London, where alcohol is optional. To aver that the Nursing of this Hospital is better than that of St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and all the other leading Hospitals of London, is indeed a *reductio ad absurdum*. Again, what proof is there that he is accurate when he says "The temperance Nurse is the best, the healthiest, and the most cheerful"? It is a bare expression of his own opinion: but I fail to see any proof adduced that such is the case.

Sincerely yours,
ETHEL ROBERTS.

THE MEDICAL PRESS AND NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—There have recently been many covert—and a few open—attacks on Nurses in the medical newspapers, and I think it is about time some answer were made by a Nurse. The *Lancet* has inserted several letters tending to prove that the old style of Nurse was much in advance of the modern development. But beyond vague generalities the correspondents have nothing to state. One or two have said Nurses are "loquacious"—but then men have

been saying that about women for many centuries! Cannot these gentlemen invent some faults and vices for us that have some semblance of originality and newness—because they say this tendency to loquacity is a sign of the "new Nurse." I certainly thought it originated in the Garden of Eden—but I may be wrong.

Another accusation is that we discuss the "horrors of the Hospitals." But hasn't that accusation been brought against us for the last hundred years? And didn't Dickens find the same tendency among medical men—and didn't Bob Sawyer do the same thing?

It seems to me that it is a matter of great congratulation to Nurses in general that the only faults with which they are charged are so trivial. It is also an admirable sign of their progress when, in all these years, and with such an enormous increase in numbers, they have not developed any fresh sins, but have only clung on to the tail of a few old-fashioned faults! It seems to me these gentlemen who came to condemn have really succeeded in praising us—so very feeble are their accusations.

Truly yours,
A TOLERANT WOMAN.

WOMEN GUARDIANS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Want of interest in public affairs is often used as a potent argument against women being eligible for municipal and public appointments. I know that women Guardians are more punctual in their attendance at Boards than are the men.

It frequently happens that only one-third, and even fewer, men Guardians are at the meetings of my Board, and from a glance at a newspaper in my hand, I gather this is frequently the case. "And thereupon they all began to make excuse." This was practically the drift of feeling at a recent meeting of a Yorkshire Board of Guardians. Their excuses for non-attendance at the meetings, and for not fulfilling the statute which enforces two attendances in six months, were frivolous to a degree. But their brethren, in solemn conclave assembled, judging on the merits of the excuses as they came before them, considered them "sufficient."

One said "There was nothing special to come for." Another said, he "didn't much care one way or the other." Several pleaded ignorance of the law, while others thought their attendance at the Rural Council would exempt them from attendance at the Board of Guardians. Most of these gentlemen would, doubtless, if the question of Women Guardians came before them, use as a reason against them "feminine apathy and want of interest in public affairs."

Yours,
A WOMAN GUARDIAN.

IS MALARIAL FEVER INFECTIOUS?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I read in the papers with some surprise that the Hospital ship *Coromandel* was ordered into quarantine on her return from Ashanti, "on account of several cases of malarial fever among the troops." Is malarial fever infectious? I have always understood that it was not. Then why was the ship ordered into quarantine?

Yours,
AN ENQUIRING NURSE.

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