

NURSING RECORD concerning Dublin Hospital Nurses.

I am a Dublin Nurse of some years' standing, and I have known many Nurses of my own and other Hospitals, and I assert that such a state of things as "Mercy" speaks of is simply impossible.

At the Hospital where I have been trained we have coffee with bread and butter before going on duty in the wards, and we have "plenty and to spare" at all our meals, so that "the straw a day" is a thing unknown.

I believe "Mercy's" suggestion to be a base and baseless calumny, and I have no doubt the Dublin public will think so too, for they continually see the Nurses and can perceive their bright and healthy appearance.

I beg to subscribe myself
MERCY AND TRUTH.

USE AND ABUSE OF UNIFORM.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—One night last week I was at the Empire Theatre, and a very refreshing and amusing entertainment is there given; but in the middle of the stalls was seated a Nurse in the indoor uniform of the Probationer of one of our leading Hospitals.

Is this right or wrong? Perhaps some of your professional readers will express an opinion. As a subscriber to various Hospitals, I must own the sight gave me a shock. Surely it is contrary to Nursing etiquette and good taste.

Yours truly,
A HOSPITAL GOVERNOR.

WOMEN'S BRITISH PRODUCE LEAGUE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I had the honour of addressing the meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland last week on the subject of agriculture, or more properly speaking of dairying, which is one of the most important of its branches to women, and took occasion to suggest that we should form ourselves into a *Woman's British Produce League* for the aid of agriculture in all its branches. The idea met with several supporters, and I should now like to carry it further. Women have a grand work before them in the field of agriculture; I have had proof of this in many ways since I published "Danish *versus* English Butter-making." Without energy, enterprise, and co-operation nothing will be done, but if we were to bind ourselves together, and everyone of us try individually to aid in sowing this great agricultural question—one of the most important of the day—we might help to bring prosperity back to the land.

We all know that the Earl of Winchilsea is at present setting on foot a scheme to help farmers and labourers, by opening depôts in large centres for the sale of British produce; such being the case, if the women of England—a large percentage of whom are housekeepers—would co-operate to buy British produce, they could help forward the scheme immensely. We have only to look at our breakfast table. We eat eggs from Russia or Italy—importing about half a million per diem—we have milk over from Holland frozen in cans, we have bacon from Denmark, and butter from Brittany and Normandy, actually paying about £38,000 every

day out of this country for butter alone! Every one of these four things we could produce for ourselves, and by so doing keep over forty million pounds sterling a year in our own country. Therefore let women co-operate; let us form a *Women's British Produce League* for the encouragement and improvement of British products in such a way as to regain for them the command of the home markets.

I have immense faith in my own sex; women, if they choose, can assist to revive the agriculture of Britain, and bring back prosperity to our land. The good work need not end with food, for we should encourage trade in all its branches, wearing Spitalfields silks, home spuns, Scotch tweeds, Irish linens, Welsh flannels, &c.; in fact, there is an enormous opening at the moment for improving trade as well as reviving agriculture, and I should be pleased to receive suggestions from anyone interested in the movement. At present England is the money box of half Europe; and much of the money we ought to keep within our own shores.

Surely charity begins at home, and to sit down and cry over agricultural depression, and at the same time take the trade away from our agriculturists, is simply ridiculous. The railway companies are coming forward to convey goods at reduced rates. Lord Winchilsea's Association is preparing to act as intermediary, and supply goods direct from the farmers to the buyers in towns. At no time, therefore, has there been such a splendid opportunity for women to help their country as at present. If they would only undertake to buy British things marked with a British Brand, and so encourage trade and agriculture, they could soon help our people to help themselves.

Truly yours,
ETHEL B. TWEEDIE (Mrs. Alec Tweedie).

[We warmly approve of the valuable suggestions of our correspondent, and trust that all our readers will accord it their support.—ED.]

SANDALS *VERSUS* SHOES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Might I offer a suggestion that some lady leader of fashion should be asked to set the example of wearing in the house sandals instead of shoes?

Though not practical for outdoor wear—except in the country—there is no reason why growing girls and others should continue to cramp the ligaments and tendons of their toes into shoes, when the foot would be not only more comfortable but look more artistic without them, while the sandal would show to advantage the pretty designs of the modern stocking. The practice would put a stop to much of the corn troubles, to ingrowing nails, and toes deformed and over-lapping. The recommendation to wear easy shoes "heals the wound of the daughter of my people lightly," for loose shoes are apt to be as uncomfortable in their way as tight ones.

Nothing can be more pictorial than the Grecian sandal, and surely nothing more hideous than the modern boot or shoe, in which it is so difficult to walk either hygienically or gracefully.

Sincerely yours,
A STUDENT OF ANATOMY.

P.S.—I make my suggestion the more hopefully, as I see how quickly the cycling fashionables have stemmed the tide of the heavy skirts that used, as it were, to drag the sap out of a woman's life.

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