

is the case it is much to be deplored; still I believe that in such instances the root of the trouble is to be found not in much knowledge, but in the "little knowledge which puffeth up." "We hear now and again of instances" in which house-surgeons—generally very junior ones—in describing an operation, tell how their senior at a critical point had said, "Well, I think I'll leave this to you to finish," and how they took up the case at the point which the said senior had "funked it," and triumphantly finished the operation. When the same young men have been in office a little while we notice that these tales are not told, and the fact of their being told at all is not as a rule attributed to over-much knowledge on the part of the narrators, but rather to their exceeding youthfulness and inexperience. The charge that "the New Nurse" desires to be independent of medical control, would be a grave one if one were able to take it seriously. I can only say I have never met this objectionable person, and fail to understand the lines upon which it would be feasible for her to work. If there is any danger of Nurses desiring to place themselves in such an untenable position there is the more need for their legal registration, and for defining the position in which they stand towards medical men.

I should like to know who are the "small but noisy exception" of members in the Royal British Nurses' Association of whom the Editor of the *Nurses' Journal* speaks as being in sympathy with the "New Nurse" as described by her. One would scarcely have expected her to refer to the Hon. Medical Secretary and the Matron of the Royal Free Hospital in these terms. It appears to me scarcely courteous, and somewhat wanting in good taste. But I feel it my duty, since this remark has been made, to draw the attention of your readers once more to the following facts:—

(1) That when the Parliamentary Bills' Committee of the British Medical Association met to consider, with representatives of the Nursing Profession, the advisability of bringing forward a Bill dealing with the legal registration of Nurses, the first essential principle of the Bill suggested was, "That a Trained Nurse is a person who attends upon the sick, or upon women in labour, *only under medical control and direction.*"

(2) That it was at this meeting that Mr. Fardon and Miss Wedgwood voted for the resolution *against* the promotion of such a Bill, on the ground that such registration was "inexpedient in principle, injurious to the best interests of Nurses, and of doubtful public benefit." Can it be that the Editor of the *Nurses' Journal* wishes us to understand that Miss Wedgwood and Mr. Fardon are of opinion that it is injurious to the best interests of Nurses that they should be under medical control and direction, and that *they* are the "small but noisy section" to which she alludes? I do not see what other construction can be put upon her remarks.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
AN OLD NURSE.

RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am glad to see your emphatic repudiation of any sympathy with the prejudice that is sometimes shown to a Nurse on the grounds of

her religion. A Nurse engaged in a private house might be chosen because she was of the same creed as her employers, but that would be a private arrangement. But in all public institutions, which may be supported by persons of various creeds, it is most unjust to place restrictions on the religious freedom of the Nurses—assuming them not to be Atheists, Mohammedans, or Thugs.

The Waterford Guardians have just had an excited discussion because it was intimated that there was some feeling against an Infirmary Nurse because she was a Protestant. It was proved not to be so, and the *amende honorable* was made. I should myself no more think of becoming a Jew, but I do not question that Protestants and Jews alike have their place in creation. It would much interest me, and perhaps others, if any of your readers could give some experience about Nursing Jews, and if there are religious difficulties in the way. There are so many Jews in London alone; they cannot all be nursed in the few wards allotted to them at the London Hospital. Where are they nursed, and by whom? I have never come across a Jewess training to be a Nurse, and although at Nurses' gatherings I have seen a few amongst us whose features might lead one to think they were remotely connected with the patriarchs, I have never met a professing Jewess, a Nurse. It is casually said and believed that Jewesses will not work as domestic servants, as governesses, or in any of the employments opening to women. I should like to be able to learn if they are entering the Nursing profession.

Your faithful reader,
A CATHOLIC NURSE,
M.R.B.N.A.

[We believe that there are very few Jewesses who are Trained Nurses.—ED.]

WASTED TIME.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have often wanted to ask if women are more aggravating than men? I am a very busy Matron of a large Training School, and am therefore more likely to come in contact with the aggravating habits of women than of men. I will only mention one particular on which I feel keenly, because it takes up and wastes so much of my time—I allude to the wholesale way in which applications for Probationerships are sent in. Every morning, piles of such applications await me on my desk. Of course I don't complain of legitimate and sensible applications, where the candidates take the trouble to inquire into the regulations and rules; these are all in the day's work. I allude to the scores of applications which run as follows: "I have read the regulations applying to the age of Probationers in the Hospital. Now I am 56, and consequently am not eligible; but I feel sure, if you saw how strong and healthy I am, and how fitted I am for a Nurse's life, you would make an exception of me," &c. Others are only 17, some are 45, and anywhere between 36 (a prohibited age) even up to old ladies of 60, two of whom have applied for admission here. I suppose by practice women will learn business habits, but from the enormous amount of *wasted* correspondence I receive I fear the day is somewhat distant.

Truly yours,
A BUSY MATRON.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)