

NURSING EDUCATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—May I venture to make a few remarks with regard to several matters which have been discussed from time to time in your valuable paper, and which pressure of work has presented my referring to earlier.

First I wish to refer to your leading article of June 20, in which you advocate the universal system in our Hospitals of the non-payment of pupil Nurses, suggesting thereby that the Hospitals would gain "the services of a superior class of workers."

I was very glad to read in a later number that in the very Hospital which you cited then, in which the experiment had been tried, it had not succeeded in the long run.

Without taking count of the fact that the supply of well-to-do workers willing to give their services would be far short of the demand, you overlook the large number of daughters of professional men who are obliged to earn their own living, who could not wait three years dependent on the home, and who, from the very traditions of the family, prefer Hospital work to that of any other.

Lower down in the same article you hit the right nail on the head in advocating a preliminary examination before entering on Hospital training. It is education (taken for granted that the references as to personal character are satisfactory) which should be the test, and which can alone raise the present standard of Hospital Nurses. This brings me to my second point, and that is a reference to Miss Stewart's admirable paper on the "Training School," published at the same time.

Her paper is excellent. I would only like to add in the paragraph on page 494, where she speaks of the "three months' training in housekeeping," that this should be extended to a time in the laundry and the kitchen. In the German Hospitals, the domestic arrangements (mind I do not refer to the Nursing) are far better and economically managed than ours, because they have a trained Sister at the head of each of their departments.

Now I come to my last point—that is, a central test examination, held by an independent board of examiners, for all Nurses.

Does it not seem an anomaly that a Nurse should receive a diploma stating that she is a trained medical and surgical Nurse simply because she has completed a certain term of years in an Institution, where perhaps she has been allowed to finish her time because she has no graver fault than that of entire mediocrity?

Of course, it is only right for the protection of training Institutions that the pupil should be in honour bound to serve a number of years the Institution which trains her; but this should not be the final test of a Nurse's qualifications.

I suggest then that every effort be made to establish a proper, central, independent Examination Board for Nurses, which should be our government stamp, as the M.R.C.S. is to the brethren of our profession, and which we could enter for as soon as we felt equal to it.

Trusting I have not trespassed too far on your valuable space.

Believe me Madam,

Yours truly,

AN OLD NURSE.

WEEDING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The other week I read with much pleasure the able and beautiful paper written by Miss Landale on the duties of the Hospital Sister, and was disappointed to see no letter of any importance referring to the same from the pen of one of my abler Sister Nurses.

Miss Landale so thoroughly understands the true spirit of authority which she has set forth with such comprehensive distinctness, that her paper ought to be of real help and benefit, not only to Sisters, but *Matrons as well*. It would be most superfluous on my part to offer any comment on the subject, but there is one suggestion I would venture to make, and that is, would it not be well that our Sisters and Matrons were so far able to judge of character, that the lazy and disloyal, and, I am sorry to say it, sometimes the *dirty*, Nurse, should not be passed on for final training, as in one month—and I believe in some Hospitals the time given for trial is longer—the capable and discriminating Sister should be able to judge whether the new Probationer was fitted by disposition and aptitude for the high and responsible duties of a trained Nurse.

Believe me, dear madam, to remain

Yours sincerely, J. A.

[We are of opinion that three months would be a better term of trial.—ED.]

THE GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY IN WORKHOUSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am not sure that this subject entirely comes within the scope of the NURSING RECORD. But it is easy to see from the advanced tone of your paper what a keen interest you take in all humanitarian questions.

Many of your readers may be interested to know what good work visitors from the Girls' Friendly Society are doing in some of our Workhouses.

It is a great thing to be able to bring girls brought up from childhood in a Workhouse—and taught to regard themselves more or less as pauper outcasts—under the humanising, friendly influence of a Society like ours. So that when these girls are old enough to leave the House and enter service they can feel they have some power to back them and help them in the difficulties that are sure to beset young people brought up in Institutions. Exception is sometimes taken to such work being done by Societies in public Institutions, but we generally find a little tact and management enables us to smooth away such opposition.

Sincerely yours, A G.F.S. WORKER.

RAILWAY HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was much interested in your little article on Railway Hospital Cars and Railway Hospitals. I think your readers may in turn be interested to hear of the recent opening at Topeka, Kansas, of a Hospital which is undoubtedly the finest railway Hospital in the world. It has been built entirely from the monthly assessments of the men employed on the Santa Fé Railroad, the aggregate sum thus raised amounting to £20,000.

Truly yours, CALIFORNIAN.

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