

will permit no injury to those women already working as Nurses; they will all be registered at first, so that the sooner we begin the sooner our profession will be purified. I am not a *certificated* Nurse, so I look at the question quite impartially, and "Excelsior" will do well to do the same. No doubt she is a better Nurse (anyway she is in earnest, which is everything) than many members of the R.B.N.A., but that does not prove that she has attained the highest state of efficiency of which she is capable. I am of opinion that had she obtained a certificate after three years' work in the wards she would have been more efficient than she could become with 20 months as a paying pupil, and ought we not to strive after the very best training we can get. Let us put all *personal* feeling out of this great question of perfecting our profession, and, whatever our qualifications may be, unite to better it for those that are coming along.

Yours truly,  
THOROUGH.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I should like to thank "Excelsior," through the medium of your valued paper, for her letter in the current issue.

It quite cheered me to read, for once, some sensible remarks on "the other side of the question" (I am a firm believer in there *always* being "another side"!) viz., the side of those Nurses who presume (?) so to call themselves, although they have not received "three years' training" in a Hospital.

I have sometimes felt strongly inclined to give up taking my RECORD, or any other Nursing paper, because the way in which this curriculum is advocated and lauded has had the effect of disheartening me for my work, and has made me often put down the paper feeling that such a poor creature, with but one year's *regular* and other *odd* training, had better give up such a useless struggle as the attempt to mitigate suffering in her fellows, or aid the doctors in their work. And yet it remains a Fact, that I am, and have been for over two years, the acknowledged and respected District Nurse of a country town; that I can, without fear, offer for inspection the book-record of my work, or still better, the testimony of committee or patients, or of the seven or eight doctors under whom I have worked, one of whom I won from an aversion to District Nurses in general, to giving me a most generously worded testimonial when he left the town! Not one of these doctors has ever enquired of me the length of my "training," yet one holds the position of one of the first surgeons in the county, and not many weeks ago asked me to take a private case for him in the country.

But in spite of this defence, I confess that I should dearly like—at times I crave for—my three years' certificate! But, what will you? I entered a London Hospital four years ago with the intention of staying to win it. After twelve months an illness, contracted there, compelled me, in its after effects, to give up hospital work. Was I therefore to consider myself "on the shelf" as far as Nursing was concerned? to relinquish the—for years—treasured hope of becoming a District Nurse? Will you answer me this?

My short training had happily been varied, as I was moved from women's surgical to men's medical, thence to the gynæcological ward, and thence, for a few weeks, to the out-patients' department. I may add that since then I filled a sick Charge-Nurse's place for six weeks, to the complete satisfaction of my superior officers, who all asked me to stay on per-

manently, but which for several reasons I decided not to do. I hold the L.O.S. certificate, and one for Massage.

Would you, then, have me, in spite of all this, throw up my post, and return to my old Hospital, where I should find hardly one known face, where I, for nearly three years a "superior," should have to take rank among the "inferiors" of one year's standing, and where, probably, my health would again soon break down? Or am I to retire into private life and bury my one talent for ever out of sight?

I should like an answer both from "three-year-olds," as well as from others who have been disappointed of, or have been unable to attain to, the highest standard.

I would echo "Excelsior's" question, Why should all Nurses, unlike medical men, be equally qualified? I do not know to what "examinations" she refers, but, with her, I will certainly go up for any open to me; and shall continue to strive, as in the past, by study and observation, not to be quite unworthy of the honoured name of  
A TRAINED NURSE.

#### THE SCOTTISH BRANCH.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with interest your remarks in last week's "Echoes" about the Scottish Branch. It is not too much to say that it has been most unpopular from the very first, and the Matron of the Hospital at which I trained, and upon which certificate I was registered some years ago, has ceased to take any interest in the Association, or to recommend her Nurses to register.

It is not in any way a Nurses' Association any longer, and from its inauguration the Scottish Branch has been entirely a medical affair. All our Vice-Presidents are doctors, as also our Secretary, and we have no real interest or voice in what should be our own Association.

Why are we the only branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association that has no Nurse-Secretary. In Victoria, and New Zealand, the local secretaries are Matrons—why not in Scotland?

We members of the Royal British Nurses' Association have an object lesson in this country in the splendid success of the Queen's Jubilee Institute, under the active management of Miss Guthrie Wright as Hon. Secretary.

Aberdeen. A SCOTTISH NURSE.

#### ESPRIT DE CORPS.

To the Editor of the Nursing Record.

MADAM,—I should like to call the attention of members of the Royal British Nurses' Association to what will doubtless astonish many of them, as it did me, when lately in London. In the different omnibuses, I saw an advertisement of an Hydropathic establishment, headed by a figure evidently intended for a Nurse, wearing a tight-fitting blue dress, and with white strings under her chin, which one might presume to be attached to a bonnet, but that article of dress was almost entirely hidden by an enormous curled fuz of yellow hair. *She also wore what appeared to be a R.B.N.A. badge.* May I ask if it is to be permitted that the badge of this Association is to be degraded to the uses of an advertisement?

Edinburgh. M.R.B.N.A.

[We should advise our valued correspondent to bring the matter to the notice of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)