



## Letters to the Editor.

Notes, Queries, &c.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

### THE GREAT BETRAYAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I hope, in printing my letter, you will allow the heading I have written to stand, because, in a large majority of cases, those who work in lunatic Asylums can in no way claim the title of Nurse as we trained women understand it, and I feel sure there will be many of your certificated readers who will sympathise with me when—after carefully reading what has been written in the NURSING RECORD, and also the official report of the Sub-Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association in the *Nurses' Journal*—I state that, to admit male and female attendants on to the Register of Trained Nurses, unless they have received at least *one* year's training in a General Hospital, will be an act of the very grossest injustice to those women who have, by spending time, trouble, and money, complied with the regulations now in force for Registration; a privilege, moreover, for which we have paid. Should the suggestions of the Sub-Committee be carried into effect, as at present suggested, it cuts at once at the very root of the principle for which our Association was founded, and upon which the independent Registration Board has loyally worked since the expiration of the term of grace in 1890, and we thoroughly-trained Nurses must recognise before it is too late that the principle of training in a *General Hospital* before a Nurse is registered by the Royal British Nurses' Association *once abandoned*, opens wide the flood-gates for the admission on to the Register of untrained specialists of every kind.

If it is just to admit persons who have had only practical experience in nursing patients suffering from diseases of the brain, I maintain it is only just to register persons who have had experience only in other special branches of Nursing; why not have special departments on the Register for Nurses trained in Monthly, Fever, Ophthalmic, Nose, Ear, Throat, Thoracic, Abdominal, Orthopædic, Nervous Diseases, and Accident Hospitals? to say nothing of the new class of District Nurse trained at Plaistow, without any Hospital experience at all! I maintain, if Asylum attendants are to be registered as mental Nurses, without a day's experience in a General Hospital, it is only a matter of time when the specialists in other branches *will claim*, and justly claim, admission to the Register of Trained Nurses, and there will be no standard of general education demanded by the Association by which they can be excluded.

The pre-arranged policy of the Hon. Officials initiated by Dr. Bezly Thorne, and so ably followed by our present Medical Hon. Secretary, Mr. Fardon—to remove our Founders from the Council and Registration Board, has resulted in this—that the legal status they won for us in the past may be rendered practically null and

void, and the high standard and efficiency for which they have worked so hard may be depreciated in the eyes of the public—that must be quite clear even to the most obtuse of our members. No doubt this "great betrayal" will be forced upon us by the "packed Council," and all that remains for certificated Trained Nurses to do will be to remove their names from the Register of Untrained Nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Yours truly,  
INDIGNATION.

### RURAL NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was present at the Conference at Stafford House on Rural Nurses, and was astonished to hear that the Queen's Jubilee Institute has consented to inspect as "Nurses" women who have had only six months' training in maternity work and who have the L.O.S. qualification. These pupils are mainly "trained" by Sister Katherine at Plaistow. But there is *no Hospital at Plaistow*, so that County Nursing Associations appoint women to do maternity and *general* nursing in villages, who have never spent a day in Hospital. The Hon. Sydney Holland very carefully deprecated these County Nurses coming into competition with district Nurses. But I wish he would tell us how they can be prevented from competing with and underselling us.

Sincerely yours,  
A THOROUGHLY TRAINED DISTRICT NURSE.

### GOLFING NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am very glad this subject has been touched on, because I am hoping it will lead to a thorough and useful discussion on whether athletics in general are calculated to improve our Nurses. Personally, I have my doubts. I am not a Nurse, but I am a woman coming into contact with all sorts and conditions of people, and I have a faculty of observation. And, from all I see, athletics are not improving our women as a whole. Being a person verging on fifty years, I am quite prepared to be met with an accusation that I am an "old fogey," old-fashioned and out-of-date, and all the rest of the courteous criticisms our younger people are apt to cast on those of a generation before themselves. But at least these young persons will acknowledge that fifty years give me this advantage, that I have had the opportunity of observing many changes in our habits and customs, and, consequently, of judging the effect on my friends, and on the sex generally, that these new fashions have had.

And I have little hesitation in saying that our women—largely owing to their athletics and an outdoor life—are getting coarser and rougher. I look round in vain for the charming grace and mystery of young womanhood. It is gone! There is, in its place, a total want of reticence and reserve. I will honestly confess, however, there is an added good-fellowship and *camaraderie* about the modern girl which is an advantage. But I do not see why broader mindedness and good fellowship should express itself in a rough, coarse exterior. I want my friend to be true and candid, but I don't want her to slap me on the back and ridicule my shortcomings.

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