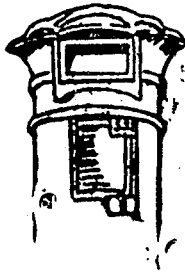


December 14th.—The Lord Mayor attends the annual general meeting of the Hospital Sunday Fund.

December 16th.—Concert in the Banqueting Hall of the Hotel Cecil in aid of the funds of the New Central Hospital for Educated People of Limited Means, in connection with the Ings House Nurses' Co-operation.

Meeting at Grosvenor House to inaugurate the movement on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses in connection with the Queen's Commemoration Fund.

December 18th.—Annual Conversazione of the Royal British Nurses' Association at the Portman Rooms, and Presentation of Badges by H.R.H Princess Christian. Tickets of admission are obtainable at the offices of the Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., at the following prices:—members, 1s.; Nurses (non-members), 2s. 6d.; member and friend, 5s.; guests, 5s. The London, Brighton, and South Coast, London, Chatham and Dover, London and South Western, Great Northern and Midland railways, have arranged to issue return tickets at single fares to members desirous of attending the Conversazione, on presentation of their tickets of admission at the booking offices.



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 REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I quite agree with you in your views upon the injustice of this scheme under consideration—"the enrolling of mental attendants upon the Chartered Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association." The term "trained Nurse" does not imply a one-sided individual, but someone who has been trained in the Nursing of medical and surgical patients. If mental attendants are registered as "trained Nurses," we can, and must, regard it as a great lie forced upon the public, apart from the fact that the status of the Association will be considerably lowered by the admission of this untruth, and which will be eventually the means of opening a side gate through which third-rate Nursing Institutes will be supplied with—"trained Nurses?" I certainly think that if mental attendants are to be classed as trained Nurses, and registered as such, without having attended lectures, or possessing any of the necessary qualifications, that it would be quite in keeping to register policemen and firemen as "trained Nurses," because they do attend lectures, and have to pass an examination in "First Aid to the injured," and therefore do know something of Nursing.

If the mental attendant seeks registration, let her have it by all means, but, at the same time, let her register herself under a different Association, and not the British Nurses' Association.

The British Medical Association does not embrace the dentist or the chemist, and why?—for we know that both aid toward alleviating the bodily pains of poor humanity. It is because they have not been trained and educated up to the point requisite to fit them for medical practice, and so it is with the mental attendant—she has not received the necessary Nursing education to fit her to take her stand in a Nursing world, where she would be as much "all at sea" as a dentist would be if he were called in to perform tracheotomy on a patient, it being taken for granted that because he can extract teeth he can also perform other surgical operations.

Not for one moment do I doubt but that mental attendants are a fine body, and cannot be dispensed with, only I do think, that, like the dentist who is registered under his own association, they, too, might register under a distinct association from that of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I do hope that, if this scheme is brought into force, every trained Nurse belonging to the Association will remove her name off the Register to make room for "the untrained Nurse." But, at the same time, why should "the many" submit to be ruled by "the few?" Would it not be possible for we trained Nurses belonging to the Association to sign a petition opposing the enrolling of mental attendants on the Association of trained Nurses?

LILLIE WADDINGTON, R.B.N.A.
Matron.

Corporation Hospital,
Borough of Bootle.

"STATUS."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—From personal experience I can give a few points which may be of interest in this discussion on the Registration of Asylum Attendants. Briefly, I entered an Asylum as an attendant some eight years ago, and worked there for two years. I received no training of any sort, beyond what I learned from observation; but being much interested in the poor patients, I somehow got to understand them, and to find I had influence with them. This influence is obtained in two ways, by studying the idiosyncrasies of the lunatics, using sympathy, and by domineering; and my experience leads me to believe there is much more of the latter than the former influence used over the patients, the average attendant, male and female, not being chosen from a very well-educated class.

Being ignorant of anything to do with Nursing matters—(not then having had the advantage of reading the NURSING RECORD)—I left the Asylum, and was taken on the staff of a Nursing Institution in the West End of London, at a salary of £18, rising with experience. I was sent to Nurse *any medical case that came to hand*, and in time I realised the very false position I was in, as I had little or no training for the work, patients paying £1 11s. 6d. for my services. I resigned after a year's work at the Institute, and entered one of our leading London Nurses' Training Schools, where, after three years' work, I obtained a certificate, and for some time past I have been doing Private Nursing on my own account and taking my own fees, often amounting to £3 3s. a week, as I am able to Nurse difficult mental cases, my former experience in an Asylum being invaluable *as an addition to my general training.*

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