



## 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 REGISTER OF TRAINED AND UNTRAINED NURSES

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Monterey, Croix des Gardes, Cannes.

DEAR MADAM,—I have seen with much regret some correspondence which has appeared in the medical and general papers in reference to the differences of opinion which have arisen among the members of the British Nurses' Association in regard to the question of the registration of asylum attendants as nurses, without requiring them to be trained in the wards of a general hospital.

I had always understood that the *raison d'être* for the establishment of the Association and for securing the Royal Charter was primarily to establish a register of thoroughly qualified and efficient nurses, through which the public might be perfectly sure that in selecting a nurse in time of severe sickness they could confidently rely upon obtaining one perfectly trained and qualified. If the proposal to place on the register sick attendants or nurses who have not been trained in the wards of a general hospital be adopted, it will, in my opinion, be absolutely necessary to divide the register into two parts:—Part I. Nurses certificated after three years' training in a general hospital. Part II. Nurses untrained and uncertificated.

If a clear and definite division was made in the register in the manner suggested, the public could not complain that the register was in any way misleading or deceptive.

I remain, Yours truly,  
SYDNEY H. WATERLOW.

[We thank Sir Sydney Waterlow for putting the case in so crushing a manner.—ED.]

### THE TRAINING OF MENTAL NURSES.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

County Asylum, Gloucester.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very much amazed to see in last week's NURSING RECORD that Dr. White stated, in reply to a question asked at the sessional lecture of the Royal British Nurses' Association *re* passing the catheter, that this duty is performed by the medical officer.

I have had a long and somewhat varied experience as an asylum worker, but have never yet known, or even heard, of a medical officer passing the catheter on a female patient in any asylum wherein I have worked. Dr. White will do only bare justice to asylum workers generally, if he will specify the asylum, or asylums, where such ignorance exists amongst the nursing staff.

Apologising for trespassing on your valuable time and space.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,  
A. GARRY.

### "MARTHA'S VINEYARD."

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I much enjoyed your review of "The Christian," but I fear that the natural curiosity of "the human" will by its means be incited to read the original. The gross vulgarity of the whole story is deplorable, but so far as "Martha's Vineyard" is concerned is it altogether untrue? I ask this question as before me I have a copy of the *St. George's Hospital Gazette* for January, 1897, in which some verses appear headed "A Sentimental Sister," in which a *sister* is represented as in love *with a patient*. I enclose a specimen of the tone and quality of these objectionable rhymes—

"Ah, Number Five, I marked you when  
You first were here admitted,  
And, hardly noticing it then,  
Remember how I pitted.  
And sympathy's connection  
United me with you,  
Since through your heart-affection  
Your limbs they 'pitted' too.  
Although the colour of my cheek  
Mere blushing health depicted,  
And your's a circulation weak,  
Yet, equally afflicted,  
My heart owed dilatation  
To Love's expansive cause,  
While 'lack of compensation'  
Was answerable for yours."

Now when such skits appear in the official Gazette of a charitable institution, how can we blame the public if they adopt the same tone? I hope the *St. George's Sisters* will politely intimate to J. B., the genius who is responsible for the verses, that they bring discredit on the whole nursing sisterhood.

Yours,  
A LATE ST. GEORGE'S NURSE.

### A MONSTROUS LIBEL.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—You may well ask "What is to be the fate of Mr. Hall Caine?"

I would suggest that for the present he be allowed to proceed with his new story entitled "The Christian"; when it is finished let the phials of professional wrath be poured upon Mr. Hall Caine's head.

Meantime we can laugh at such absurdities as a house surgeon being "gloriously drunk" on duty, and a newly-caught nurse-probationer entrusted with a hypodermic syringe!

The hospital world is indeed a great world, of which outsiders know but very little. Hence we have authors in fiction writing "monstrous libels" and ignoring the patient, earnest work unceasingly carried on therein.

Yours very sincerely,  
G. R. A.,  
M.R.B.N.A.

### NEGRESS NURSES.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Stewart, in her remarks at the conference of the Matrons' Council, touched upon a very interesting subject, namely, the training of negresses as nurses. It appears to me that the sub-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)