

TREATMENT OF THE DEAD.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am so glad the subject of laying out the dead has been brought up, for, since I have left the hospital, both in private and in district nursing, I have often been perplexed and undecided as to what to do and how best to lay out the body, both with regard to appearances for the sake of the friends, and with regard to the best and most convenient way for the undertaker.

Here, amongst the poor, I have found great difficulties with regard to both, for even the friends of the deceased do not seem pleased if the body does not look like a "corpse," and are quite concerned at finding no pennies on the eyes, the jaws well tied up, the feet bound together with string, the hands symmetrically placed on either side, and the body from the shoulders to the hands bound up tight with the aid of two roller towels. And it's perfectly true about the Bible jammed under the jaw. Then they wash them all over with gin every day.

It really is a ghastly sight to see these village "corpse layers-out" set about the work to suit the undertaker, who is a *brute* of a man.

They have all been very nice in "giving in" to me, but I have never felt quite sure of my ground, and should be most grateful if you some time, when you can spare the space, give us an article on the subject—from the moment of death till the body is placed in the coffin. Thanking you in advance,

Yours faithfully,

A DISTRICT NURSE.

[We propose to deal with this matter shortly.—ED.]

THE REGISTRATION BOARD.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The composition of Mr. Fardon's Nurses' Registration Board is interesting from a professional standpoint as it appears in this year's Register. First, of course, we find it is composed of *fourteen* medical men to *eleven* nurses, so that the power is altogether retained by the medical element. Second, the names of the heads of the Navy and the Army Services and of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, are conspicuous by their absence. It is perhaps conceivable that the ladies who hold those responsible positions would not condescend to accept nominations from the medical Hon. Secretary, immediately upon being insultingly deprived upon his suggestion of the *ex officio* seats to which they have been entitled from the inauguration of the Registration Board. So far as the prestige of the Board goes, such nursing leaders are ill replaced by a Superintendent of a small Private Nursing Institution, and an assistant officer from the Nurses' Co-operation. Some Nurses are of opinion that it would be within the rights of members to require that the names of those who attend the Registration Board should be published quarterly in the *Nurses' Journal*, a rule followed in other professional associations. We should then have the satisfaction of judging of the qualifications of the persons who have of late been "entrusted to extend the wise and beneficent purposes of the Association" in place of those who have attained the leading positions in the nursing profession, to whom our certificates of training were formerly submitted. Yours sincerely,

E. S.

NURSES FOR THE PLAGUE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to thank you for your up to date and reliable information concerning the necessity for nurses for the plague in India. Of course, your valuable expression of opinion was immediately denied by a contemporary, the editor of which paper greatly misled his readers by not informing them last week that the India Office had consented to comply with a request from India to send over thoroughly trained nurses immediately, and that volunteer nurses had already been selected before his last issue. This is not my idea of journalism, nor is it likely to inspire confidence in the publication in the future. Anyway, "the early bird gets the worm!" Yours truly,

M.R.B.N.A.

[Does any trained nurse really believe that the Stock Exchange is acquainted with nursing matters?—ED.]

THE ARMY NURSING RESERVE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your publication of the regulations for the new Army Nursing Reserves were read by me with much interest. Can you inform me whether it is proposed that the volunteer corps are to be engaged for active service in time of war, and thus supersede the regular Army Nursing Sisters? If this is so, it appears to me extremely unfair; the regular nursing sisters should certainly take precedence of the reserve. There is a good deal of feeling amongst Her Majesty's Nursing Sisters concerning this question. Yours very truly,

ONE INTERESTED.

[In the regulations for the Army Nursing Service Reserve, which we have before us, we gather that "in the time of war, the nursing sisters (or as many of them as may be required) will be entirely under the control of the War Department." We imagine, therefore, that the Nursing Sisters of the reserve—might, or might not, be told off for actual service. There is nothing in the regulations which intimates that they would *supersede* the regular army sisters, and it must be borne in mind that a reserve of educated nurses to supply the place of Army Sisters on active service is a very wise arrangement.—ED.]

THE NURSING OF THE INSANE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I can sympathise with "One who has Suffered." Last year it was my fate to visit often a near and dear relative who died in an asylum, and I feel sure that if the attendant, a well-meaning girl of the lower domestic class, had been trained as a nurse, the last hours of my poor friend might have been greatly relieved of suffering. He was paralysed, and required very skilled attention in many ways, which he did not get, not from any intentional unkindness upon the part of his attendant, but because she was very ignorant in many ways. Much might have been done by a trained nurse to keep the bed sweet and clean. I feel very strongly on this question of mental nurses, and am sure a few months in a ward of sick lunatics is not the place to learn the rudiments of nursing. Such a science can only be learnt in a general hospital. The care of poor sick lunatics should never be entrusted to novices, as I have seen done. Yours truly,

A WIDOW,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)