

If I may be allowed to say so, there is a word in your paragraph that I consider sounds harsh, namely, *lunatic*. Attendants or nurses having the care of insane patients, in accordance to the rules and training in asylums, would never be allowed to use such a word. I feel sure that in private nursing it would not be appreciated.

I agree the word is grammatical, still, I consider anyone trained for mental nursing should refrain from using it.

Yours truly,

ONE INTERESTED.

[We publish the opinions of one who has had thirty years' experience in attending the insane, feeling sure that the great experience she must have gained will insure for her views the due consideration of the readers of the RECORD; but again we must point out that, as we suggested that "mental nurses," as apart from "attendants," should hold a certificate for general nursing, our intention was, of course, that the certificate should be obtained in a *general hospital for the sick*; it is impossible that it could be gained in an asylum for the insane, where the female attendants care only for their own sex, and where accidents, infectious fevers, and major operations are the exception and not the rule. It is to be hoped that this question, which is of vital importance to the public generally, will be fully discussed in a representative conference, of hospital and asylum workers, in the near future.—ED.]

"JOHN SMITH, PAUPER."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The following story, told by one of my nurses, appears to me very sad, although it also has a comical side. Nurse had with great difficulty persuaded an old couple to have the parish doctor, as they were both in failing health.

On paying her visit the following day she found them both in tears. Between her sobs the wife told their trouble. Fairly early in the morning a voting paper arrived, and the envelope was addressed "John Smith, Esq."

Within an hour the old man's medicine was sent, and on the bottle in painfully plain writing was "John Smith, pauper." Where is the charity which does not behave itself unseemly? No wonder we find among the poor those who are willing to die sooner than receive such "so-called" charity.

The word used in speaking of a certain class must be, but to use it towards those who have been reduced to poverty by misfortune or illness is very cruel, and I consider it does harm, when applied to those who have brought themselves to destitution by wrong-doing or carelessness, by taking away any self-respect which may still be theirs.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

A DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT.

[It is high time the brutalising term, "pauper" was eliminated from our nomenclature. "The deserving poor" are not the least self-respecting class in these days, when the *nouveau riche* dominates Society.—ED.]

MODERN METHODS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad that the Matrons' Council is considering the question as to how private nurses may obtain fresh practical experience from time to time. Private nurses are, I think, just a little bit out of it, and many of them feel keenly that the longer they go on with their work the less fitted in some ways they are for it. Personally, having been out of hospital for over three years, I begin to feel very rusty indeed, and should like much an opportunity of bringing myself up to date once more. I used to take a pride in belonging to a hospital which was somewhat in advance of most in its use of modern methods, but now one feels hopelessly in arrears. The NURSING RECORD keeps us acquainted with much that we should not know otherwise, but after all the only way to learn things thoroughly is to do them. I am wondering if it could be arranged by the Matrons' Council that on certain days private nurses could be taken round the different hospitals, and shown the new appliances, and the various arrangements.

I should much like, for instance, to see Mr. Harrison Cripps' new gynæcological theatre at St. Bartholomew's, and also the glass theatre at King's. I feel sure that many private nurses would much appreciate this privilege, but they are for the most part much too shy to present themselves and ask for it, without some guarantee that they would be welcome. Besides which, if they went at a certain fixed time, the plan appears as if it might be quite feasible, but I can understand that they would be a nuisance if they arrived at all times and seasons.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A SEEKER AFTER KNOWLEDGE.

THE EXCLUSION OF WOMEN.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It appears to me the reason of the obsolete position accorded to the matron of the Macclesfield Infirmary, is due to two causes. Firstly, the governors of this institution are at least fifty years behind the times, therefore they are living in an age which had not evolved skilled nursing, and doubtless consider that the office of matron can be suitably filled by any decent woman with some knowledge of house-keeping. If one could be found who would follow in the steps of her illustrious predecessor, and humbly make her curtsy to the senior house-surgeon when they meet, no doubt it would be very gratifying to that young man's *amour propre*, and be received by him as only his due. Secondly, it is very rare, in any institution managed entirely by men, to find a woman accorded her right position, for the simple reason that it seems almost impossible for the minds of members of the sterner sex to grasp the fact that women have any mission in life beyond that of ministering to their personal gratification, or playing second fiddle to an egotistical solo on the first violin by one of the "lords of creation." When *will* men be just to women? Never until they have the vote, I am afraid, and are able to voice their own desires. May that day soon come.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO IS WAITING FOR IT.

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