

to you for opening the columns of the NURSING RECORD for its ventilation. In raising the standard of nursing, whether hospital or asylum, you are doing a noble work. We want high ideals, and no part of our armour can be deemed useless which helps us to fight more successfully against suffering and disease in its ever varied forms. You do well to draw attention to the increasing number of commercial nursing houses where financial success is the one object. It is sad to recognise how much support is given by the medical profession to these illegal ventures. It is a misdemeanour under the Lunacy Law for any person to receive a patient for payment who is insane, without the fulfilment of the statutory forms.

Excuse me for intruding my views upon one so much better informed. Wishing you much success in your many good works,

I am,  
Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
T. M. C.

[We must remind our correspondent that we have never expressed the opinion that "the nurses trained in the sick wards of a general hospital are necessarily capable of nursing the insane sick." We are quite sure that great numbers of otherwise excellent nurses are quite unfitted by the lack of certain mental qualities to have charge of the insane; in fact the mental force, intuitive sympathy, and patience, which, together form the character of those who should be placed in charge of the insane are not the commonplace qualities of many men or women, and without the most careful training and selection the trustworthy mental nurse does not exist. So very responsible do we consider the duty of those entrusted with the care of the insane, that we should advise a very thorough curriculum of education, the basis of course to be founded on a knowledge of general nursing, which can only be acquired in a general hospital, this experience to be supplemented by a thorough training in the care and nursing of the insane in a well-organised asylum. Thus only can really efficient mental nurses be educated.—E.D.]

**MENTAL NURSING AND JUSTICE.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me through your paper to thank "Certificated Nurse" for her support of my few remarks in my former letter. The indictment is true. I may also mention that the mental nurse who wrote on the long hours of asylum attendants doubtless sought for the situation she complains of.

I, a humane person, was not aware that inhumanity was allowed in our asylums at this date. If that nurse finds her equilibrium cannot stand 14 hours of attendance upon the insane, I consider that an asylum is not a suitable place for one so feeble, and she had better give up mental nursing before developing into a tyrannical machine. I am doubtful if training, however good, would have proved beneficial to one of her mind.

I am sorry to say that there are some that consider themselves attendants on the insane before they know what asylum life is. I uphold the present system of asylum working as good. Where the improvement is wanted is among the attendants themselves. There is no eye-service with attendants that take an interest in doing their duty, but there is a class of male and female attendants that breaks down the line of discipline in the asylum. I trust the day is near when we shall have an association and society that will rectify these many grievances in our noble institutions, that have and are doing so much for that sad affliction, insanity.

Yours sincerely,  
ONE INTERESTED.

**BUCKNELL v. BUCKNELL AND MARSHALL.**

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

Caterham Asylum, Surrey.

April 20th, 1897.

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to the report of the above case in your issue of the 10th inst., it is stated that the co-respondent was a friend of the superintendent of the Asylum. This statement is incorrect, and the following paragraph appeared in several of the daily papers, rectifying the error which had appeared in their reports of the trial:—

"Bucknell v. Bucknell and Marshall."—In this case tried last week petitioner's solicitor asks us to say that the co-respondent was not a friend of the superintendent of the Asylum, and never visited the Asylum as such."

The respondent was in the service of the Asylum in conjunction with her husband as "man and wife" attendants in charge of a male infirmary ward, and the dances alluded to are given during the winter months for the recreation of the patients, as is customary in all the large asylums.

Yours faithfully,  
EUGENIE A. WARREN,  
Matron.

[The statement that the co-respondent in the case of Bucknell v. Bucknell and Marshall, was a friend of the superintendent of the Caterham Asylum was given in evidence at the trial,—we are pleased to make public a denial to this statement. We are obliged to Mrs. Warren for explaining the position of Mr. and Mrs. Bucknell at the Asylum, and are strongly of opinion that married couples should not be employed in the capacity of attendants or nurses in public institutions. We hope the discontinuance of this system may be one of the reforms to be effected in the near future in Asylums for the Insane.—E.D.]

**Notice.**

THE Editor must request correspondents volunteering for active service in Greece not to send photographs. She cannot be responsible for their return.

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