



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.

ASSOCIATION OF ASYLUM WORKERS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—May we ask for a few lines of space for an appeal to your readers for help on behalf of the "Association of Asylum Workers," an Association inaugurated in 1895 under the presidency of the late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, M.D., with the objects of improving the general status of Nurses and Attendants on the Insane, securing the sympathy of the philanthropic public, and providing a "Home of Rest and Nursing" for those engaged in asylum work?

The life of workers in asylums is an arduous and trying one. The Association is anxious to mark this year of jubilee by establishing at least one "Home of Rest" for those whose health has suffered from the character of their work. Mental nurses (both male and female) in asylum service have already cast in their lot with the Association to the number of 2,222, and their shilling subscriptions will form the nucleus of the fund for starting the Homes; but it is obvious that but little can be done without the generous co-operation of a sympathetic public. Unlike her hospital sister, the asylum nurse does not always meet with recognition from her former patients and their friends, reference to what recalls a mental malady being (for the most part) studiously avoided.

Much has been done, both by public and private benevolence, for the benefit of those who devote themselves to nursing bodily ailments. May we not venture to urge the claims of those whose duties in tending mental sufferers involve the exercise of infinite patience, tact and loving kindness, in spite of frequent discouragements? It is hardly necessary to point out that occasional change and rest are essential to the efficiency of the mental nurse; and, although asylum authorities deal as liberally with their staff as circumstances permit, there is still room for private benevolence in cases in which too close a devotion to duty has resulted in impaired health.

Information will be gladly given and subscriptions received by one of the undersigned:—

LAURA EVANS, Hon. Treas.,
Berrywood Asylum, Northampton.
G. E. SHUTTLEWORTH, M.D., Hon. Sec.,
Ancaster House, Richmond Hill, Surrey.

[We can only hope that this excellent scheme will soon be carried into effect. We have no doubt it will be of great use and comfort to asylum workers, and we shall be very pleased to give any help which the organisation of the Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton might afford to the Committee of the new Home.—ED.]

AN INTERESTING HOLIDAY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It may interest some of your readers to hear of a trip I took last month to the Hot Lake District. I went to Auckland by steamer, and thence by train to Rotorna—a day's journey. Unfortunately the weather was very wet, but I was determined to go about and see all I could. I drove one day in torrents of rain to Tekitiri, a distance of eleven miles; it is a wonderful and horrible place. I saw the Devil's Bridge, Porridge Pot, Punch Bowl, Delight, the Gate of Hell, and the Inferno. Great cauldrons of seething, boiling mud. After that I walked through lovely bush to Paradise—a blue lake—a perfect dream of beauty. A hot waterfall was also one of the attractions of that part. I went another day with a party of seven to Waiotapo, twenty-two miles distance from Rotorna, and saw the most wonderful sights. Caverns of burning sulphur, primrose terraces, green and blue lakes of marvellous beauty, and an opal lake too exquisite for words to describe.

I visited Whakarewarewa twice, and admired the geysers greatly; in places the ground was so hot that it burned through our shoes. Of course, we had Maori guides wherever we went, as it is not safe to go without. The Maoris do all their cooking in the hot springs, many of which are boiling. The smell of sulphur at Rotorna is at times overpowering, and one quite longs for fresh air.

The hot baths are delightful, and possess wonderful curative properties; invalids from all parts of the world are to be found there, and many receive great benefit. Unsightly skin diseases have been completely cured, and all forms of rheumatism relieved. I might mention special cases, but fear I have already taken up too much of your valuable space.

Believe me, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
MOANA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—On the envelope enclosed in the *Nurses' Journal* in which to enclose my voting list, I observe a number in writing under the word ballot. Can you explain what it means? Also, as we did not receive our voting papers until the 12th of June—and we are directed to return them not later than the 30th instant—how are the members abroad to avail themselves of their right to vote?

It appears to me quite wrong that the hon. officers should curtail our voting time, or dictate upon which day our papers shall be returned to the office. Our Charter gives us the power to elect the General Council at the annual meeting in July, and I maintain that if we choose we have a right to vote right up to the opening of the annual meeting. The foreign members' votes must be received up to the 22nd of July, or they will have been deprived of their right to vote by the mismanagement of the office in the delay in sending out the voting papers in time to be returned from the Colonies.

Yours truly,
A CHARTERED NURSE.

[(r) We can only surmise that each member's number on the Roll, which has been written on the envelope enclosed in the *Journal* for the return of the General Council Voting List, has been thus marked

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