

THE HANDLING OF INFANTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a rule I see eye to eye with the NURSING RECORD, which I read from cover to cover, but my experience is quite at variance with your remark that "the comfortable handling of an infant cannot be taught." In fact, I believe the converse of this statement is nearer the mark—namely, that "no one who has not been taught can handle an infant comfortably." Of course I do not mean to say that this art can ever be taught satisfactorily to those who do not care for children, but even amongst those who do, and amongst the Nurses and Ward Sisters in our Children's Hospitals, it is rare to find that infants are properly and comfortably handled except by those who have had special training in Maternity Nursing. The proper handling of an infant is, to my mind, no more an instinctive feeling with women than is the capacity for nursing, with which, until recently, it was supposed that Nature had endowed them.

I am, yours faithfully,

GAMP.

[We hope that our correspondent will be good enough to give our readers some practical hints on this important point.—ED.]

THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Dr. Outterson Wood has stated that the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Society is in itself a sufficient guarantee of the proficiency of those who hold it in the Nursing of mental cases, and also of their moral character. There is also an "Association of Asylum Workers," which has during the past year enrolled over 2,000 members. It seems, therefore, absolutely without excuse to try to force on to the Register of Trained Nurses men and women who, though they may do excellent work in their own branch, and as members of the Medico-Psychological Society or of the Association of Asylum Workers would command our respect, have yet no right to the Register of *Trained* Nurses, inasmuch as they are not trained in general Nursing.

If this scheme is carried through, the inevitable result will be that sooner or later the ears of the ass will appear from under the lion's skin, and the would-be trained Nurse, with no training, will have to beat a hasty and ignominious retreat, when, as the member of an Association of Asylum Attendants, he or she might have gained the respect of his fellows. It appears to me that the Asylum Attendants should themselves protest against being placed in such an entirely false position.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A READER OF THE "RECORD."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In his letter to the *British Medical Journal* of the 19th inst., Dr. Outterson Wood makes the following statement: "There are already about 2,000 Nurses of both sexes who, after a rigorous curriculum of Asylum training, practical as well as theoretical, and after examinations of a character in no way inferior to any examinations for Hospital

Nurses, are put on the Register of the Medico-Psychological Association. *This is in itself a sufficient guarantee of their proficiency.* (The italics are mine). Then, what is the name of common sense *do* they want? They have already a register which, by Dr. Outterson Wood's own showing, is a guarantee of their proficiency in the special branch in which they are trained. Why should they want to come on to *our* Register and pose as something which they are not? Surely the only possible reason is, that being on the Register of *Trained* Nurses would give them a position to which they are not entitled.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

M.R.B.N.A.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I observe in a printed letter which I have received, signed by Georgina Scott, M.R.B.N.A., supporting the proposal to place Asylum Attendants upon our Register, that she is good enough to remark that "the final judgment must rest with the Association."

I also observe in Dr. Strahan's letter to the *British Medical Journal*—which she reprints to support her case—that "It is true that the Council of the Medico-Psychological Association has been invited by the Royal British Nurses' Association to consider the advisability of having the names of trained Asylum Attendants entered on the Register of the last-named Association. But there is no cause for alarm. The invitation extends to those who hold the Nursing certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, and these people are as well trained and as highly qualified for their work as any other trained Nurse in the country."

Now may I inquire *when* and *how* the Royal British Nurses' Association has been consulted on the matter, and when they issued the invitation alluded to by Dr. Strahan? *The truth is, we never have been consulted;* and even at the Council Meeting, when Dr. Outterson Wood read a report on the subject, the Medico-Psychological Association was never mentioned, so that any invitation which has taken place between these two official bodies has been made by the Hon. Officers and Dr. Outterson Wood—in the name of the Royal British Nurses' Association—*without the consent of the members.*

Could any action be more outrageous, or more positive proof of the "official autocracy" with which they conduct our business.

I hope the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association will decline to be bound by this "invitation," which they have never issued.

Miss Scott tells us that "the report in favour of the admission of Mental Nurses was unanimously adopted by the General Council." We should like to know the names of those present—as we Certificated Nurses have little respect for a governing body from which the leading Matrons have been excluded.

Miss Scott's airy conviction that "the final judgment must rest with the Association" is distinctly misleading, when she is well aware what action has already been taken in the name of the Association—*without its consent.*

Yours truly,

A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)