

do not suppose that there is a probationer in any London hospital, who has been there six months, who does not know who are the matrons of the leading London hospitals; and it really is annoying to think that our *Journal*, which should be representative of nursing interests, and, moreover, should be able to give us information upon nursing matters, should make such a stupid blunder. No wonder the Association is becoming a laughing-stock in the nursing world, as well as a bye-word to the public. When will it regain the prestige of the good old days, I wonder?

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
M.R.B.N.A.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Those members of the public who have been carefully reading up both sides of the great nursing controversy—Organization and Registration of Trained Nurses—are becoming more and more convinced that it is a question for the public as well as the nurses, as their interests are one. But how are the general public, who at present take everything concerning nursing on trust, to look after their own interests? When a member of the family is seriously ill the medical attendant says, concerning the nurse, "Leave it to me," and a nurse is introduced into the home upon his recommendation. Does the medical man know all the nurses personally that he recommends to his patients? If so, how is it that a woman like Clara Storer, described by the Chairman of the Oldham Board of Magistrates, according to your last week's report, as "a common thief," can gain admittance from house to house as a nurse, stealing from each, without exposure? You cannot wonder that we mothers are rather diffident of admitting trained nurses to the sanctity of our homes. Surely there is some means by which we could do more to help the real nurses to gain some sort of legal protection, and by which we ourselves should be protected from "common thieves."

Yours truly,
E. G. C.

[We have been working for ten years for legal registration of nurses for the protection of the public, as well as for the protection of nurses, and we are firmly convinced that no reform will take place in nursing matters until the public awake to the serious condition of affairs as they at present exist. Five years ago there was some hope that, through the co-operation of active matrons and nurses themselves, nursing matters would be reformed from within the profession. To-day we frankly own that, their Association having been captured by persons who have avowed themselves in opposition to legal registration of nurses, and the Association being used against the interests of the public and the nurses, no improvement can possibly take place until the public demand justice and protection. Trained nurses will be classed with the "common thief," and "nurses à la mode," so long as their employers in and out of hospitals oppose Parliamentary action in the matter. We should advise the formation of a Society, composed of public-spirited men and

women, to agitate for Legal Registration of Trained Nurses by Act of Parliament.—ED.]

NURSING ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly inform me, through the medium of your valuable paper, if I am within my rights in requesting to have a personal interview weekly with the House Committee of the hospital of which I am the matron, instead of reporting to the Committee the details of my department *through the Secretary*? I find the latter method very unsatisfactory, but am informed it is the usual method of management.

Yours,

A COUNTRY MATRON.

[In all well-organized hospitals the matron makes a written report of the Nursing and Domestic Departments, in a book kept for that purpose, to the House Committee of the institution. This book, with other official documents, is laid by the Secretary before the Committee, and the matron is invariably accorded the courtesy of a personal interview, so that she may discuss the report, and the future work of her department, with the Committee. Any other method of business is sure to prove unsatisfactory and inefficient.—ED.]

A PRACTICAL POINT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder if other sisters in hospitals find that year by year the quantity of bed and body linen required to keep the patients thoroughly clean increases? I have been a sister several years, and this increase in the ward washing continues. So many more articles are now in use than formerly that I find it impossible to prevent the increase—even with the greatest care. This the committee do not seem to understand. Perhaps you can help me with a suggestion.

Yours faithfully,

A CHILDREN'S SISTER.

[This question of the ever-increasing quantity of linen used in hospital wards is one of importance to hospital managers, because of the extra expense, and we are convinced that much can be done by personal care and supervision of the linen, on the part of a sister, to prevent useless extravagance in the use of washing articles. The distribution of linen should not be left to the junior nurses, and clean linen should be kept under lock and key, and be given out at stated times. Draw sheets and nightgowns are an uncertain quantity, especially in a children's ward, but small ward cloths, sheets, and blankets can be well regulated weekly. At the same time it is poor economy to be mean in the use of clean bed-linen, when a "sweet bed" is of the utmost importance in the treatment of disease, especially in surgical cases. Careful personal supervision by the sister is the only check on extravagance in this detail of ward management.—ED.]

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