

IS NURSING MANLY?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—If you will allow me to express an opinion upon the above question, which has occurred in your journal, I should say that the answer entirely depends upon the point of view. What *is* manliness? I venture to think that a woman's estimate of manliness, and a man's—the highest type of man, that is to say—differs very materially on this point. For instance, what is the sort of man a woman usually admires?—A fine animal, to begin with, with a powerful physique, and a "masterful" manner; ability to hunt, ride, shoot, and dance well are also desirable qualities. If a man has these qualifications, he is "manly," according to the popular idea. If, on the contrary, he is a student, if his brain powers exceed his physical and animal capacities, if he is tender-hearted, gentle, and chivalrous, he is dubbed "effeminate" by unappreciative and commonplace persons, with whom for the most part "matter" counts for far more than "mind," mainly because the latter quality being developed only in an exceedingly rudimentary degree in themselves, they are unable to appreciate it in others. A combination of strength, and gentleness, is in my opinion the highest form of manliness, and nursing certainly tends to develop these qualities, as well as the "sublime repression of himself," which is one of the characteristics of Tennyson's "Ideal Knight."

I am, Madam,

Yours obediently,

"LADY OF JUSTICE."

IS NURSING MANLY?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In answer to your question—Is Nursing manly? Decidedly no! No indoor domestic occupation is manly, and nursing is a domestic occupation. In answer to the question—Are male attendants necessary? Certainly yes, but attendants are not nurses, and the sooner the difference is grasped the better. The ill, suffering, and helpless person requires nursing. The physically strong and violent person requires an attendant; he may also require nursing, and under these circumstances it is necessary that the attendant should also be a trained nurse. Where physical strength is necessary, and it is necessary in the treatment of violent male lunatics, dipsomaniacs, and heavy paralyzed cases, that a man be employed; but for tending the helpless sick I maintain that a strong, able-bodied man is out of place, and would be far more suitably employed in outdoor, manual labour—in the army, navy, and in agriculture. We hear no end nowadays of women thrusting male labour aside; why do we not hear more of men pottering about the sick room, measuring out yards of ribbon, dealing over the counter in dainty china, adding up figures in the counting house? These are all sedentary and effeminate occupations, and the sooner great, able-bodied men discard them the sooner women will fill the vacancies, and cease to compete with them in various manly, out-door occupations, for which they are neither fitted by nature nor inclination.

A FEMALE NURSE.

GHOSTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As you have opened the columns of the RECORD to the discussion of the subject of Ghosts, I am sending to you a photograph which I think will interest you. It was given to me by a friend who was trained at Guy's, and acted for some time as a ward sister at Shadwell. She vouches for the facts. The room is in an old house in Norfolk. You will see that at present it is used as a bedroom, but it was formerly a chapel; the altar rails are still in position, and the dressing table now occupies the place of the altar. The room has the reputation of being haunted by a priest, who is said to pay nightly visits to it, and kneel in front of the dressing table. But the extraordinary part of the story is this. The girl who occupied the room desired to have a photograph of it taken, simply because, as her bedroom, it was of interest to her. The photograph was naturally taken in daylight, and no one ever supposed that there was anyone in the room, but—when the photograph was developed, and returned, the priest, as you will see, was perfectly apparent in the right hand corner of the picture. He is evidently vested in alb and chasuble, and wears a biretta. Perhaps some one interested in psychological research will explain this phenomenon.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A BELIEVER IN THE UNSEEN.

[This photograph is certainly most extraordinary, and the ghostly priest is clearly defined—the chapel bedroom is very charming, but we should be inclined to suggest to the owner of the house that it should not be used as a guest chamber!—ED.]

THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was glad to observe that you recommended in a footnote to "E. G. C.'s" letter in your issue of the 11th inst. that a society should be formed of public-spirited men and women to agitate for Legal Registration of Trained Nurses. It appears to me that until this is done we shan't get "any forrader." The public employ and pay trained nurses, and they have a right to demand that their methods of training and their personal characters should be good. In our best hospitals the whole institution is managed by laymen, members of the public, and so to a great extent the interests of the public are safeguarded as well as those of the nursing staff, as unsuitable persons are eliminated from the nursing staff. But with regard to private nurses things are different, and neither the well trained, conscientious nurse, nor the public, have the slightest protection from the hundreds of "failures" who leave hospitals and "go in for private nursing." Of course, both the nurses and the public are to blame for submitting to such a condition of things, and I for one am quite prepared to help to form such a society as you suggest. I hope you will make a point of our right to co-operate for mutual protection in your forthcoming paper to be read at the Congress of the National Union of Women Workers—soon, we hope, to become our National Council of Women.

AN APPRECIATIVE READER.

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