

in your valuable paper. In the first place, whether Nursing is a manly occupation or no, it appears to me that men will never, in large numbers, volunteer for training, unless hospital regulations and discipline are very considerably relaxed in their interest. For instance, at present all nurses, training in a hospital, live in a home connected with the institution. How many men, of the age from which probationers are drawn, would be free to live in this way, even if a special home were provided for them? I believe that most men in the rank of life from which nurses are largely drawn are married at this age. Would men who desire training, bind themselves upon entering on a three years' agreement to remain unmarried till the end of their training, or would hospital committees be prepared to allow their probationers to live "off the premises" with their wives and children, and to put in an appearance, or not, in the morning, as seemed good to them? Then again, the superintendence of nursing is at present exclusively entrusted to women. Will men be content to work under women, or will they demand a male superintendent for the male nurses? Just think of the complications that would ensue under such circumstances. Matrons do not have an easy time at present, but, if the authority is to be a dual one, there would indeed be confusion worse confounded. After all said and done, the fact remains that until educated *women* took the nursing question in hand, and evolved order out of chaos, the condition of nursing in most, if not all, of our hospitals was a scandal and disgrace to the country. Now that nursing has been elevated and refined, and reduced to a science, men have suddenly discovered in it a vocation for themselves. I feel just a little afraid that if they are allowed to have their way the old story of the "cuckoo" will be repeated, and the women who have done the work will be found to be out of place altogether, and will have to make room for the "sterner sex," and hand over to them the places they have gained, in the profession they have certainly made.

I may say in conclusion that I entirely agree with your correspondent who holds that "no indoor domestic occupation is manly."

Yours faithfully,
A NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM EDITOR,—Out of the above question another arises, and that is, Where in England are male nurses to receive adequate training to fit them to be efficient nurses? It appears to me that no first-class general hospital admits men for training, and, therefore, they cannot yet compete with female nurses, for whose nursing education so much has been accomplished of late years. This is quite different in the States, where owing greatly to the initiative and organization of Miss Louise Darche, the superintendent of the New York City Hospital, on Blackwall's Island, a very flourishing school for male nurses exists, and men are admitted as orderlies and trained now in a great number of American hospitals. I must admit, however, that in the States men "combine strength with gentleness" much more often than in England, where men appear to me much more coarse and animal in every way than my countrymen at home. I am astounded to read in your English papers of the horrible assaults on wives and women, and at the small punishment such crimes receive.

This treatment of white women would not be tolerated for a day in the States—and we make short work of the "blacks" who attempt it—American men are brought up to respect their mothers, and they love and obey them by instinct, and wives are sacred in their eyes. Co-education may have effected this good feeling between the sexes—sure it is that women nurses, and male orderlies, work together in our hospitals without friction. Before English men can call themselves "trained nurses," they must find a nursing school to admit and instruct them; so far, I cannot hear of one.

Yours truly,
TRAINED IN THE STATES.

GHOSTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am deeply interested in the correspondence about ghosts. Surely the progress of science teaches us that the power of human sight is very limited, and by no means uniform, and that there are numerous organisms quite imperceptible to the human eye? Why then should people scoff at the idea of constituent elements which are not usually visible to the human eye. These elements may be named spirits, ghosts, or what you will, but there is little doubt that human beings do occasionally perceive shapes and visions which appear abnormal, according to our prescribed standard. I should much like to see the photograph to which you alluded in your last week's issue, in which the pious old priest is visible proceeding to his devotions. Surely the chamber indicated was sacred ground, dedicated to the worship of God, and it is sacrilege that it should be used as a common living room? It ought to be again converted into a private chapel.

Yours truly,
A GOOD CHURCHWOMAN.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—While you are on the subject of ghosts, perhaps you will allow me to ask your opinion, and that of your readers, on a statement which was lately made to me, namely, that if you live in a house inhabited by ghosts, you "get used to them." It seems difficult to believe, but a friend of mine, who is a nurse, and is able to speak from experience, assures me that it is so. She herself went recently to stay with her sister, who lives in a house which has the reputation of being haunted. She awoke in the night, with the feeling of being overpowered by an invisible presence, which had hold of her throat. She was unable to speak or move, at first, but at last managed to call out. Her sister, who was in the next room, said that the voice she heard was not in the least my friend's natural voice, but was like that of a person who was being throttled. The strange thing is that several people have slept in this room, always with the same result. After this experience my friend never could "get used" to this particular room, but she stayed on in the house, though there is a lady who sobs in the drawing room, and ghostly hands are put upon people, as they pass up and down stairs. Even little children sob and scream at the things they see in the house, and a nurse who having nowhere to go for her holiday was invited to stay there, was so alarmed at her experience on the first night, that nothing would induce her to spend another night in the same room, and she packed up

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