

"But who do you think is in the right and who in the wrong; what about such and such a point; and what is your opinion about such and such a question?"

"Oh, I don't know; some say one thing, some another, but I don't trouble about it; all I know is you are not a real nurse until you have had three years' training."

"What do you mean by a fully-trained nurse?"

"One that has had three years' training."

"Oh . . . have you ever nursed a nephrectomy?"

"Oh, no."

"Were the hysterectomies at your hospital performed vaginally or abdominally?"

"Oh, I don't know, I am a *medical* nurse, I know very little or nothing about surgical work."

"Did you have any examinations at your hospital?"

"Oh, yes."

"What books did you study?"

"Laurence Humphrey"—(please note this is the *medical* nurse).

"Yes, and what other books?"

"The Nurses' Dictionary"—I learnt a lot from that."

"That's very nice, but what medical books did you read; have you ever heard of Taylor or Charteris?"

"Oh, no."

"Have you seen a case of pityriasis rubra? locomotor ataxy? peripheral paralysis?"

"I don't think I know what you mean."

"Exactly so . . ."

Now, I have met nurses of the above description by the score, belonging to that *educated* class, that nondescript half-and-half middle-class woman who is *bourgeoise* to the tips of her nails. This is the class which is being so advocated, and which is gradually forming the bulk of the nursing profession—this class has taken up nursing as a *pis-aller*, which, in the guise of a uniform (which covers a multitude of sins—for one thing the stamp of class they have sprung from), goes about, gives itself airs and graces, both in the streets and in private nursing, and brings disgrace on the profession.

No, a thousand times *no*, I say. Give me far, far sooner, the good-honest housemaid-nurse, who is capable of making an excellent and conscientious nurse, either to nurse me or to be charge-nurse in my ward. Then, have nothing but thoroughly well-educated, high-principled women, with a higher standard of examination to take the higher posts, *not* because they are ladies (or lady pupils), *not* because they make better nurses, but for the other qualities which they ought to possess, and which are essential for certain posts. Besides which, there are many openings for lady nurses, all the Queen's nurses being gentlewomen, whether they be army, army reserve, or district nurses.

I quite agree on the point of exams., but firstly we must have two standards, and secondly they must be uniform, and by an unbiassed Board, and not by the hospital itself, which, to my mind, would be invalid.

E. R. W.

#### GRATUITOUS ADVERTISEMENT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—“A Member” objects to our Journal being used to puff one nursing society composed of

members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. I am quite of her mind. Why should our Journal be used by the Journal Committee to puff the society which Mr. Fardon and his colleagues control? Are we less Chartered Nurses because we belong to the Nurses' Co-operation, or Bond Street, or indeed other societies. In making use of our Journal without paying for it, the Committee of the Chartered Nurses' Society, which is almost one and the same as the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, are taking an unjust advantage of those private nursing societies to which members of the Royal British Nurses' Association belong. In fact, the truth is they have no right whatever to the exclusive use of the title, "The Society of Chartered Nurses," because that is the right of the Royal British Nurses' Association alone. Could not this point be raised at the annual meeting? Many members belonging to other corporations object to this cliquism.

Yours truly,

ANOTHER CHARTERED NURSE.

[We are of opinion that our correspondent is quite within her rights, as a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to object to any society of nurses assuming the title of "The Society of Chartered Nurses." A Chartered Nurses' Society, or a Society of Chartered Nurses might be permissible, but no more, and the use of our Journal by Mr. Fardon to push his own society (conjointly with the Middlesex Hospital Trained Nurses' Institute), is only one more evidence of those "Middlesex methods" by which the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association are being misgoverned and made ridiculous.—Ed.]

#### AN ECONOMIC QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a constant reader of the RECORD, one wonders how you can, week after week, keep up hope with regard to nurses. As an outsider they appear to me more devoid than any other class of professional women of principle and gratitude. As a secretary of a women's society, I have met many nurses, and to hear the way they take everything for granted, never attempting to judge for themselves in questions vitally affecting their own interests is astounding, and yet one hears from hospital matrons of endless difficulties, and how, as a class, nurses are very difficult to satisfy, and how prone they are to grumble, especially about food and personal comfort. Can you explain "the change which comes over the spirit of their dream," once they are fully qualified and working on their own account?

Yours truly,

SECRETARY.

[As the secretary of a women's society, surely our esteemed correspondent must have grasped the fact that she is dealing with an economic question. Nurses have had such a cruel lesson in the last few years of what treatment they may expect if they dare to hold or express opinions on their own affairs, that we fear they have become greatly dispirited. In condemning nurses as a class for want of courage and principle, we must remember that they are a class of workers entirely dependent upon their employers for their daily bread, and in many instances are poor and needy; it is a sad truth that there can be very little real independence so long as the pocket is light. Women learn that bitter lesson every day.—Ed.]

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