



Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &c.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our

Committees will express themselves strongly on this subject.

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,
A MOTHER.

THE GOOD OF THE MAJORITY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was a little surprised to read in last week's RECORD, how warmly you supported Professor MacEwen in the present dispute at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. Surely it is not reasonable for one surgeon to expect the whole nursing department of a large hospital to be organized entirely in relation to his own work. Whatever should we poor matrons do if every surgeon or physician on the staff did likewise? No hospital could be managed on such lines—the general good must be taken into consideration—and I speak from experience when I say, unless the Lay Committee is all powerful, great injustice is done to one department of the hospital for the supposed benefit of another. Professor MacEwen has openly admitted that he was not content to take a night report through a day nurse, and therefore the night nurses had to be on duty in the morning, when it was convenient for him to pay his visit to the wards. As a matron of many years' experience, I have no hesitation in saying that such a system is a great hardship to the night nurses who should be away from the wards by 8 a.m., and out in the fresh morning air; their work is sufficiently trying without being on duty in the day as well as the night; and, again, if the day sister is not capable of taking a sufficiently intelligent interest in the nursing and condition of the patients, so that, with the official report of the night nurse, her information is of real value to the visiting surgeon, then the sooner the surgeon lives on the spot the better. I cannot but think that the good of the majority is the greatest and ultimate good, and this should be considered when organizing the nursing department of every hospital. The number of nurses per bed in our large Scotch hospitals do not compare favourably with "Bart's" and the "London," but all the same I pity the sisters in England who have so many nurses to train in these days of "pronounced individuality."

"A SCOTCH MATRON."

A PUFF OF SMOKE!

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry to see that any nurse can openly, and shamelessly confess, in your valuable paper, to the pernicious, and to my mind, unwomanly habit of smoking—shades of Elizabeth Fry, Agnes Jones, and many another pioneer of nursing reform! It is enough to make these illustrious women turn in their graves, and wonder if they spent their lives for naught when their successors are openly advocating and practising the habit of smoking! I can only say that we mothers will be very chary of letting our daughters enter hospitals for training if this is the kind of thing they learn there. I have only recently learnt to tolerate the habit of smoking acquired by my boys, and still dislike it, but my girls, never! I suppose the next thing will be that the over-worked Sister will find a "night-cap," or a glass of liqueur essential to her wellbeing also, as an accompaniment to the cigarette. For the sake of the girls with whose training she is entrusted I must say that I hope it will be as "much as her post is worth to her" for any ward Sister to indulge in the habit of smoking, and that hospital

PLAGUE IN POONA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Again the plague is amongst us, and in even greater force than before. It takes a more serious form in its recrudescence, in that it now sometimes attacks, tho' it does not yet kill, Europeans.

In the last week there have been 5000 deaths in our Presidency from this cause alone, and that is out of 5887 attacks. Even after these months of experience, nearly every attack is fatal.

In Poona City we are now losing about 45 daily. There are to-day 318 cases in the Special Plague Hospital, besides 58 and 56 in the Mohammedan and Hindu Hospitals respectively. New sheds are being added daily to the Special Hospital, and a house has been taken just outside the hospital limits for six European nurses. This house contains several large rooms comfortably furnished, besides dining and drawing rooms. Each room is easily large enough for two nurses.

Their hours are from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., with half-an-hour off for breakfast, and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The

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