

performed their duties in Greece during the late war, of their having neglected their duty, there has been no reason to do more in this journal than expose the identity of Miss Rider, the matron of the British Seaman's Hospital, at Smyrna, who made, anonymously, a malicious and inaccurate attack upon her brave countrywomen, in Sir Henry Burdett's paper, the *Hospital*. Her Royal Highness, the Crown Princess of Greece, has expressed her appreciation and "sincerest thanks for the great care they took of all the wounded soldiers, and for all the kindness they showed to them," and every medical man under whom they worked has also written in the highest terms of praise of the manner in which they carried out their directions, and the devotion and sympathy shown by them to the wounded. These ladies, who have earned universal praise and gratitude for their work in Greece, can afford to ignore the attack made upon them, the animus of which is perfectly apparent.—ED.]

THE GOOD OF THE MAJORITY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I entirely agree with your Correspondent, "A Scotch Matron," who considers that the well-being of the whole institution must be considered in arranging the nursing department of a hospital if this is ever to be placed on a workable basis. If night nurses are to stay on duty for an indefinite time in the morning, until it is convenient for the medical man to pay his visit, how can it be possible for them to get the proper amount of fresh air and rest, and to be on duty in time to relieve the day nurses at a reasonable hour at night? The day nurses must certainly be on duty early to get through the necessary routine work of the wards before visits begin, as every one will, I suppose, agree that all the heavy morning work should not fall upon the tired night nurses, and therefore it is manifestly the duty of a superintendent of nurses to see that the time off duty of the night nurses is so arranged that they are able to relieve the day nurses at a reasonably early hour. Again, even if the night nurse be present, surely she would give her report to the surgeon through the sister of the ward, in the same manner as the day nurses do, unless there is to be an end of all discipline! Imagine every nurse giving her own version of her work to a surgeon upon his rounds! Finally, if I may venture upon the suggestion, if it be necessary in Professor MacEwen's opinion that the night nurse should be at hand during his rounds, why should he not time his visit to take place during her hours on duty?

Yours faithfully,
ANOTHER MATRON.

THE GREAT BETRAYAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a British Nurse, I write to thank you for your annotation, in last week's NURSING RECORD, exposing the degrading fact that British Nurses, who formerly, without a doubt, led the way in the matter of nursing reform, are now being dragged at the cart tail of other nations, and will ultimately be compelled to adopt measures, which they should have initiated, by the force of public opinion. There are a certain number of nurses, myself amongst them, who

feel this degradation keenly. I know we have ourselves, in a great measure, to thank; we have not insisted, as we should have done, upon measures of which our consciences approved being carried out; we have yielded too easily to pressure, and have been over readily persuaded that the *vox populi* was the *vox Dei*. At the same time we, of the rank and file, consider that we have been betrayed by our leaders. We trusted them, and they have failed us. I look around now to see who is fighting for liberty of conscience, liberty of speech, right, truth, and justice, for nurses and I see—yourself. In the name of those nurses who have not lost quite all sense of professional responsibility, self-respect, and gratitude, once more I thank you, and I believe that the seeds you have sown, even in such stony ground, will spring up and bear fruit.

Yours gratefully,
AN OLD PUPIL.

"BLACK AND WHITE."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that your correspondent "K. T." says, in speaking of the plague in Poona, that "it takes a more serious form in its recrudescence, in that it sometimes attacks, though it does not yet kill, Europeans." May I ask—I was going to say, why is the life of a white man of so much more importance than that of a black one? but this does not put the case accurately, as while the plague has killed thousands of the natives of India it "does not yet kill" Europeans. In spite of our boasted nineteenth century civilization, I venture to think that we have still something to learn as to the relative importance of whites and blacks.

Yours faithfully,
ENQUIRER.

SAUCE FOR THE GANDER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The petty tyranny over the weaker sex exercised by some creatures calling themselves men, but unworthy of the name, makes one, as a man, sometimes ashamed of one's sex.

An overworked Nurse smokes a mild cigarette in her private room to soothe her overstrung nerves, and these creatures bluster with indignation and dismiss her from her post.

A House Surgeon receives a report from a sister in a hospital ward, with a pipe in his mouth, and nothing is said.

A medical student smokes whilst examining a sick child in its mother's arms, and nothing is said.

What has become of our British love of fair-play and courtesy towards the weaker sex? Are these qualities becoming extinct in the medical profession?

In the Army or Navy, cads like those I have mentioned would be tried by a mess-room court-martial, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Have the gentlemen of the medical profession no means of teaching manners to the cads who join their ranks?

Yours faithfully,
MILES.

Wellington Club, S.W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)