



## 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 correspondents.*

### KING CONSCIENCE.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to see that, in your last issue, you drew attention to the extraordinary fact that a document is being circulated by two of the officials, and five of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, begging for a testimonial to their own "disinterested" work, and, as is usual with the clique to which these ladies belong, dragging in the name of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, in order to strengthen their extraordinary request.

To my mind, the fact that it is necessary to send round a letter, begging for a vote of confidence in order to "strengthen the hands of Her Royal Highness the President, and the Executive Committee, in carrying into effect the proposed new Bye-Laws," suggested by the Hon. Officers, proves conclusively that the officials are, as usual, coming to the Meeting on Friday, not with the view of finding out the wishes of the members with regard to the Bye-Laws, but in order to force them down our throats, nilly-willy. I have no doubt that if we venture upon any criticism we shall be taunted with "disloyalty to the Princess," a taunt to which we are, by this time, well accustomed, but which, it appears to me, it is hardly complimentary, or even wise, to repeat so frequently. Secondly, this letter proves that the officials are by no means happy about the situation, and that they desire to take every precaution to strengthen their insecure position. They may well feel uneasy. Had the matrons of important training schools had the seats to which they were entitled, which they were promised, and to which they were even appointed, on a sub-committee for revising the Bye-Laws, those now proposed to us—insulting to every self-respecting member of the Association—would never have been drawn up.

I have no doubt whatever that the officials will find on Friday that, in spite of the pressure which will doubtless be brought to bear, in spite even of the taunt that we are "disloyal" to our Royal President, there will be not a few members of the Association, "steadfast and true" to its original principles, who will have the courage to vote as they believe to be right.

Our president, who is the daughter of our most constitutional Queen, and of whose illustrious father the late Poet Laureate aptly wrote that he "reverenced his conscience as his king . . . not swaying to this faction or to that," will scarcely require of us as evidence of loyalty to her person that we should prostitute our consciences; and the consciences of many of us are involved in this matter.

This being so, it will be understood that, come what may, we should be false to our President, our profession; yes, and I would, in all reverence, add, we should be false to our God, if we voted otherwise than as our consciences direct.

I am, Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BREAY.

### JUSTICE.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I observe in the recent issue of the *Nurses Journal* the statement that all contentious letters are to be suppressed, but so long as these disgraceful personal attacks upon Dr. Bedford Fenwick are published in one part of the journal and scattered broadcast, is it reasonable or just to rule that the replies to these attacks on one who has proved himself the nurses' best friend are to be systematically suppressed?

Nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association will, I think, have little confidence in the opinions expressed in their professional organ so long as this disgraceful injustice continues.

Yours truly,  
CHARLOTTE OKELL,  
Member of the General Council.

### BOW, WOW, WOW!

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR EDITOR,—I am barking to tell you that my mistress is taking me over to London next week, and I shall be "At Home" at the Prince of Wales's Show, at Earl's Court, on the 15th, 16th, and 17th. I hope very much that you will be able to come there to see me. Perhaps you have seen that a prize is being offered at the show for the dog that has collected the most money for hospitals. I should very much like to get it, and think I ought to stand a fair chance of it. I hope, too, to meet my friend the Prince of Wales there again, as I feel sure he would like to see the poor Irish canine beggar once more!

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you soon,  
I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
"LEO."

County and City of Cork Hospital for  
Women and Children,  
Cork.

[We deeply regret that this letter came too late for publication last week. If we awarded the prize to the greatest canine philanthropist, "Leo" would certainly be the successful competitor.—ED.]

### MENTAL NURSING.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I should be much obliged if some of your readers who have had experience in mental nursing, would tell me where the best training can be obtained. I hold the certificate of a general hospital, and desire now to acquire the special knowledge. But I should like to hear of an institution where the training is systematic and thorough.

Yours faithfully,  
NURSE ELEANOR.

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