



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.

MALE MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I send you an advertisement taken from the *Manchester Guardian* one day this week. The extract has made me feel rather indignant. Surely it is not right for a man to qualify as an obstetric nurse, when that branch of nursing is so essentially woman's work! I think there ought to be some means by which people can be prevented from assuming false positions, as at the present time there are several women nurses who would only be too glad to obtain training in obstetrics during their hospital career. I much appreciate the *NURSING RECORD* each week, having been a subscriber since its first year of publication. Might I ask if the lectures on "The Nursing of Maternity Cases," published each week (by M. Breay), will be obtainable at their conclusion in book form, as I have found them most interesting and helpful and am sure the book would be welcome to most nurses?

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A FEMALE OBSTETRIC NURSE.

[The advertisement runs as follows:—

"MIDDLE-AGED Gentleman, qualified in obstetrics, desires Engagement: moderate salary. Accoucheur, 8, B—Street, B —."

and we are inclined to think it is the somewhat pathetic appeal from a gentleman who has, perhaps, for many years held the position of unqualified assistant, who is—owing to the regulation recently enforced by the General Medical Council, forbidding registered medical practitioners to employ unqualified assistants—now in middle age out of work. All reforms bear somewhat unkindly upon individuals, and yet reform is necessary. If, however, the Bill for the registration of female midwives—with a few weeks' experience—becomes law, it will be only just that "men midwives" should be permitted to practise on the same basis. We women claim that "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," and we must be prepared, in claiming equality before the law, to grant it to the other sex.—ED.]

QUID PRO QUO.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your remarks upon nurses paying for their training, as medical students do for theirs, have afforded me much food for thought. If this is so, would it be proposed that they should, as has been usual heretofore, do a large amount of the domestic work of the hospitals? Students pay for their training it is true, but so they ought. They don't get up at

six o'clock in the morning, sweep and dust the wards, scrub the lockers, polish the floors, and do one hundred and one other things which certainly the authorities would have to pay others for if the nursing staff did not do them. I quite own that as these things are for the benefit of the patients, they are best performed by those who understand the scientific importance of cleanliness, only things should be fair all round. It certainly would be of great value to a medical man in his after career to know how these necessary duties should be performed, and he can only know by practically acquainting himself with the right way. Why should we not have a contingent of students in every morning to beeswax the floors, and give the necessary degree of polish to the "brights"? They would be physically far more capable of performing these duties than many a woman who cheerfully struggles through them at present.—Yours faithfully,
BUSY BEE.

NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Is it not a significant fact that, in spite of all that has been said against nurses of late years, their services are requisitioned more than ever? To take only the last eighteen months for instance—directly the Græco-Turkish war broke out English nurses were requisitioned, and indeed were on the spot, waiting for it. When the plague in India assumed such serious dimensions, nurses again were required, and responded to the call; and now, when an expedition is despatched to the Hinterland regions of West Africa, nurses are included in it as a matter of course, and Captain Lugard, in his mission to Nyasaland, is also wisely taking nurses with him. With this practical demonstration of the need of, and capacity of, nurses, I do not think the public will believe that we are the black sheep that some persons would have them think us, but I hope they will recognize the justice of protecting the women who are engaged in so honourable, and oftentimes dangerous, a profession, and will demand that only those shall be allowed to call themselves nurses who have qualified for the position by a prolonged course of training.

Yours, etc.,

TRAINED NURSE.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Being a constant reader of the *NURSING RECORD*, I hope you will let me say how much I appreciate the Social Problems which from time to time appear. I am always disappointed now when the *RECORD* comes out without one. Is it not a humiliating fact that "the unholy thirst for human blood" is still so keen? It is painful to note how all the nations are armed to the teeth, and it is mere folly to suppose that this is necessary for the purposes of self defence, which is surely the only legitimate ground for fighting. Who shall dare to say that all, or most, of the wars of the present day are entered upon for this reason? Is not greed of gold, or greed of territory, more often the cause, and, if so, how do the rulers of Christian nations justify the sacrifice of human life for these ends? I am so glad our *RECORD* sounds the true note on this subject.

Yours truly,

OBSERVER.

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