

Again, you object, and justly, to the application of the term "professional nurse" to a woman who has not received general training, and yet you describe as a midwife one who has never had any training at all. I put it to your sense of justice—Is it fair?

Yours faithfully,

A GAMP OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

[We think our correspondent's demand—to be distinguished from untrained midwives—is absolutely just; but midwives must not consider themselves fully trained when they have had three months' experience in a maternity hospital, as we are afraid many of them are apt to do. Training—more especially the training which entitles to registration by the State—in our opinion, includes a much more thorough curriculum than a three months' smattering. The low standard of midwifery education required of midwives in this country is certainly most deplorable.—ED.]

SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The suggestion made by your correspondent, "A Charge Nurse," that nurses of various institutions might combine in their summer holidays and form a cycling party, appears to me to be an excellent one. May I ask you if you will be good enough to put me in communication with "A Charge Nurse?" We might perhaps come to some arrangement which would be mutually satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

CYCLIST.

UNIFORM IN THE DOCK.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—As your journal is the only professional organ which has protested against the miserable woman Brandish appearing in the dock in uniform—until late years the dress of the trained nurse—I think it will interest you to learn that the result you anticipated has occurred in Birmingham, namely, the depreciation and condemnation of nurses as a class. Here of late we have been insulted and hooted in the street, by persons of all ages, who shout "Brandish" after us if we appear in our professional dress. This is grossly unjust, and many are very indignant that respectable women—and, moreover, those engaged in an honourable profession, should have been subjected to such insult. I beg also to offer to you the heartfelt thanks of many Birmingham nurses for the way you uphold the dignity and rights of nurses from a professional standpoint in your splendid journal. It is a thankless task, but will tell in the long run.

Yours,

A GRATEFUL READER.

BUSINESS OR BAKSHEESH?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I observe that a physician in Berlin, in a medical paper of that capital, asserts that the nurses in the private hospitals are in league with the undertakers, who distribute amongst them circulars offering as much as £5 by way of gratuity for a good job. The good doctor calls this "an infamous combination," and proposes that the nurses should be replaced by women working in sisterhoods.

Whatever may be the custom in Berlin, there is no doubt that there is a most undesirable habit, upon the part of London undertakers, to offer gifts to private nurses when arranging a funeral; half-a-dozen pairs of black gloves, or hose, I believe, are the baksheesh usually offered, and, I regret to say, often accepted. To obtain the patronage of a Nursing Home, undertakers are sometimes very lavish in their gifts, especially at Christmas time. Imagine consuming Christmas cheer provided from such a source! Turkeys and Tangerine oranges are much in favour with the wily undertaker. Chemists, also, sometimes offer a percentage on the drug and dressings bill (paid for by the patients). Surely these things should not be; but I find it all comes under the head of "business."

Yours truly,

ANTI-JOBBERY.

NURSING EXHIBITS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—May I ask, in connection with the interesting notice in last week's NURSING RECORD with regard to the Exhibition Rooms at the NURSING RECORD Office, whether contrivances and inventions of nurses may be submitted to you, to be exhibited if you approve of them; or is the exhibition one of trade productions only? I should think there must be many nurses who have pet contrivances of their own, which they would be pleased of an opportunity of showing, and it would be to their mutual benefit if this could be done. If it is permissible, I should be pleased to send you one or two contrivances of my own—simple things, certainly—which I cannot dignify with the name of inventions, but, still, which I have found add considerably to the comfort of my patients, and which have been very useful to myself. The nurses' exhibits were quite the most interesting part of the Nursing Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall in 1896, and indeed were the distinctive feature of the Exhibition, to my mind. Who that was fortunate enough to see them, for instance, can ever forget the beautiful models shown by Sister Marian of the Homeopathic Hospital? I would go some distance to see them again.

Yours faithfully,

A REGULAR READER.

[We shall be very glad to inspect any inventions of nurses, and to exhibit them if they are likely to be of general interest.—ED.]

NURSES AND BICYCLES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me to say how glad I have been to see the view which the NURSING RECORD is maintaining as to the too prevalent custom of private nurses taking their bicycles to cases with them. To my mind nothing shows so completely the change which has come over the spirit of nursing than the fact that it is necessary for the NURSING RECORD to speak on such a matter at all. In the "good old days" we had our faults, I know, but we were at least taught to make our patients our first consideration, and we should have scouted the notion of being so callous, even if we had not been promptly brought to our senses, as we should have been, by our superiors.

Yours faithfully,

AN ANCIENT PARTY.

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