



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.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have been looking out for some weeks past for some articles on social problems in the *NURSING RECORD*, such as made it so interesting at the beginning of the year. Are there to be no more? I hope so. When they began I thought they would be one of the most attractive features of the paper. I am still of the same opinion, and hope that you will shortly let us have another.

Yours obediently,
READER.

[We have received several letters similar to the above, and hope soon to comply with the wishes expressed.—ED.]

THE MIDWIVES' QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me to say that I entirely agree with the opinion of Dr. Atthill, which you quoted last week—that a most important part of the training of midwives is the instruction which they should invariably receive in monthly nursing. Firstly, because the very essence of the need for midwives at all is that they are able to combine the two functions of midwife and monthly nurse. The work of midwives lies for the most part amongst the poor, and the poor lying-in woman needs not only to be delivered, but to be visited daily for some ten days subsequent to her confinement. A great part of the value of the services of the midwife, therefore, consists in the fact, that she is able to give, what a medical man has neither time nor training to give, skilled nursing attention to both mother and child for this period. With regard to midwives acting independently, I believe that it is, for the most part, those who have no right to the name who desire this position. A midwife in my opinion, and I believe in the opinion of most midwives who are also trained nurses, should never undertake to attend a case without having behind her a medical man for whom she can send in case of necessity. The necessity may not often arise, but when it does it is apt to do so with alarming suddenness. Also, midwives are not educated to attend any cases but those of normal labour. Is it contemplated that they shall trust to chance as to whom they shall call in, should they discover upon arriving that the case is an abnormal one?

Secondly, in my experience, the large proportion of those who train as midwives do so with the view of subsequently acting as monthly nurses only.

But whether she acts as midwife or monthly nurse, a woman without doubt needs the experience obtainable only by a prolonged general training, in order to gain

self reliance and clear headedness in the emergencies which will certainly occur in her work.

It is because there is no provision requiring such general training that I have never seen my way to support the proposed Midwives' Bill, much as I desire the elimination of the ignorant and untrained element from the practice of midwifery.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A MIDWIFE.

THE CHARTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—More than one nurse who has worked on the supplementary list during winter months of *The Society of Chartered Nurses*, and has then been turned adrift as not suited for membership—when her services could be of no more commercial value to the Society—will have read your criticism of this society with approval; and I would draw the attention of members of the Royal British Nurses' Society, each one of whom has a right to the title "Chartered Nurse," to the injustice of the Hon. Officers forming a clique of members and adopting a title which legally belongs to us all, and therefore, which the Hon. Officers and Miss Ethelred Jackson have no right to assume exclusively. Fancy a few amongst the Chartered Accountants presuming to form themselves into a commercial concern, and giving themselves out as *The Chartered Accountants* to the exclusion of all other members who have a right to the title—the thing is outrageous. I speak the more feelingly as my position is this: In meeting a member of *The Chartered Nurses' Society* (both of us being members of the Royal British Nurses' Association) she disputed my right to call myself a Chartered Nurse—because, as she ignorantly stated, "You are not a member of *The Royal Chartered*." "Royal fiddle-sticks," said I. But all the same the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, who accept or exclude members of the Royal British Nurses' Association from the Society of Chartered Nurses, may have the right to form cliques of members for gain; but they are exceeding their rights in attempting to use exclusively the title "Chartered Nurse," and I am informed that we "outsiders" have a very good case to take into a Court of Law. *The Chartered Nurses' Society*, as you have pointed out in a former issue, is the Royal British Nurses Association, and every member has, therefore, a equal right to use the title.

Yours, &c.,
A CHARTERED NURSE.

[We thoroughly agree with the argument of our correspondent.—ED.]

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Every trained hospital nurse with a sense of the fitness of things must agree with Miss Margaret Breay's views on the registration of Asylum Attendants, and, in consequence, the narrow and short-sighted policy of class papers suppressing correspondence on professional questions is much to be deplored. One fact is being well demonstrated, however, and that is that we are sure of fair play in the *NURSING RECORD*, and the conspiracy of silence upon the part o

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