

ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to read in the letter addressed by a correspondent to the NURSING RECORD last week, that the country nurses are feeling the need of professional organization now that the Royal British Nurses' Association has become useless to them. Of course it has. Why hasn't the Annual Meeting been held in the country for the last four years? The vote of the country members would not have been under the official thumb, and this fact would have been highly dangerous. Why have the provincial sisters and nurses been excluded from the present "representative" Council; they are independent and therefore dangerous. Would it have been possible to intimate to them more plainly than has been done that they are not wanted? I think not. Let the Royal British Nurses' Association therefore change its name, and become the Royal Metropolitan Nurses' Association, and even then it will appeal to a very limited number of Metropolitan Nurses. It may, I think, be safely left to its own devices, and its members are welcome to get what joys they can out of the patronage and gratuitous tea drinkings, which no doubt will be their reward for their docile renunciation of the duty of exercising their God-given consciences. But as for the Royal British Nurses' Association doing any real good work with the material at its disposal—Pouff! "You can't pour out of a pitcher what isn't in it." We may be quite content to leave it to go its own way. But the fact remains that though British Matrons have the Matrons' Council in which they can discuss their professional affairs, sisters and nurses have no association, in which they can freely discuss with their colleagues subjects of professional interest. This seems, in these days of many combinations, an anomaly, and is surely bad for the interests of our profession. I know that many nurses desire the formation of an association on the lines of the Associated Alumnae of American and Canadian Nurses, and I very much hope that in the near future something of the sort may be organized.

Yours faithfully,
ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE.

A GRUMBLE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MY DEAR EDITOR,—I have taken up my pen to lodge a formal complaint. Yes, really and truly a complaint against the RECORD. I know you court free discussion, and therefore, I make bold to air my grievance, which is that I am so tired of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and I really think that the space in the NURSING RECORD is too valuable for so much of it to be devoted to Royal British Nurses' Association affairs. When this Association was the Nurses' Association, of course, it was only reasonable and right that its doings should take up a good deal of room in the representative organ of the Nursing Profession. Also in those days we were proud of our Association and were anxious to be kept fully informed of what was going on. But now that the Association is the Nurses' Association in name only, and we have ceased to take any interest in its

existence or non-existence, I must own up to a feeling of disappointment when I find so much about it in the RECORD. There are so many other things which I would so much rather see discussed. At the same time I don't wish to say that any subject of interest to nurses is excluded from the RECORD. Far from it. I marvel every week at the miscellaneous assortment of matters of nursing interest with which you provide us weekly for the absurd sum of one penny. I am certainly one of the readers of the RECORD who appreciate it to the full, and I should miss it sorely if I did not get it. Still, I should scarcely consider myself a fully qualified nurse if I did not have a grievance or grumble sometimes, and I really think I have found a legitimate one this time. With very many thanks to you for your constant championship of the best interests of nurses.

I am, yours very truly,
GRUMBLER.

[As this journal does not belong to what the *Daily Mail* aptly names the "Suppress," we have inserted the above letter. At the same time we are of an opinion that it is our duty to expose the manner in which the hon. officers and their medical supporters have deprived the nurse members of co-operation and their professional rights in their own Association. It has been, undoubtedly, a most disgraceful and cowardly usurpation of power, and its disastrous results the Nursing profession has yet to suffer. It is a case of placing the disfranchised employed in the absolute power of the enfranchised employer, and is nothing less than the enslavement of the trained nurse. When we ask Parliament for that legal protection, which medical men have secured for themselves, the use which will be made of the Royal British Nurses' Association, by the men who have not hesitated to oust the women who founded it and won its charter, will be speedily apparent. As at present organised and worked, the Royal British Nurses' Association is a standing danger to the liberties of trained nurses, and a determined clog in the wheel of progress.—Ed.]

THE RED CROSS NOT TO BLAME.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—From letters received from the seat of war, it does not seem as if any great forethought had been taken for wounded soldiers at the front. We feel that, on the whole, the Army has snubbed nurses. They seemed to think they were all-sufficient. The Red Cross force at the front, too, sounds absurdly inadequate—five nurses—but they had been told that the Army would not need them, and they had gone for relief work. Other Red Cross Nurses had been stationed at the hospitals at Tampa and Key West. At other stations in this country every care has been taken to prepare for the reception of wounded soldiers, but all accounts agree that at the front itself, before Santiago, there was the most astonishing lack of everything needed for the comfort of the wounded during the first two or three days—no nurses, not enough surgeons, and no supplies. This failure should not be laid to the Red Cross.

Yours,
"STARS AND STRIPES,"
New York.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)