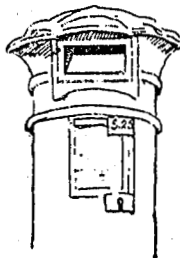


**Letters to the Editor.**

NOTES, QUERIES, &amp;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.*

**A QUESTION.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—Can any of your correspondents furnish detailed information respecting the cost of living at Homburg? Two ladies intend going there at the beginning of September for three weeks, and as economy is an important object, they will be glad of information with reference to the daily or weekly charges at an hotel or pension. Yours sincerely,  
Dublin, August 12th, 1898. D. F.

[Perhaps some of our readers will be able to give our correspondent some advice on this subject. There is a pension (Proprietor J. Fuchs) at Albion House, Homburg, which is mentioned in the published list of International Pensions. We do not know of anyone who has been there, but the International Pensions are always to be relied upon, though they vary much in the way in which food is served. Apartments may be had at Albion House with or without board. Inclusive terms are 7 to 10 marks a day—a mark being equivalent to a shilling—which is a very reasonable charge for Homburg at this time of the year.—Ed.]

**NURSES ON ACTIVE SERVICE.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—Why has the Army Department of the United States "snubbed" nurses, and why do Army Departments as a rule seem to hold the services of trained nurses cheap? Is not the reason that trained nurses on active service have not always upheld the honour of their craft, and proved themselves worthy of the responsible position they held? The reason for this failure is, I think not far to seek, and is that the selection of such nurses is made by the Army Department, and this without the aid of one woman expert. What would the Army Department expect the result to be if the officers for the same campaign were selected by a Board which knew nothing of soldiering? Yet the cases are analagous, and the moral is that if Army Departments expect their nursing arrangements to be a success, they should place the selection of the nurses in the hands of trained nurses. It may be objected that medical men assist in the selection of the nurses, but, it must always be remembered that the medical and nursing professions, though kindred, are distinct; that though medical men may estimate rightly a nurse's technical skill they are not in a position to judge of her qualifications in other respects, and that, in point of fact, when the selection of nurses in civil hospitals rests with men it is almost invariably a failure. I hope, therefore, that Army Departments will take the lesson to heart and will place the selection of nurses for active service in the hands of a committee of leaders of the Nursing profession. That the right nurses are needed

and useful in time of war is proved by the good work they did in Greece during the recent war, and by the work of the Red Cross Nurses at Santiago, now that the unwilling authorities have been obliged to give way and accept their services. But in neither of these cases did the selection of the nurses rest in male hands. I hope that the day will come when army nurses will be chosen on their own merits, rather than because they have relatives in the service, and can give references to "ladies in society." I am not arguing that they should not be women of good breeding. Far from it—they will need this. But even on this count I should say that the opinion of the Matron of the Hospital, where the nurse was trained, would be of more value than that of a "lady in society." We all know that "society" is an omnium gatherum now-a-days.

Your's faithfully,  
TRAINED NURSE.

**SELFISHNESS.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—The principle laid down by Miss Eva Allerton in her interesting paper in last week's NURSING RECORD, that selfish Probationers should not be retained in nurse-training schools, but should be eliminated with the unfit, is startling. I wonder how many of us would stand the test. I am inclined to think that the heads of the training schools would be landed high and dry without pupils. I once heard pride spoken of as "the nurses' deadly sin," but I think selfishness runs it very close. How many of us habitually put the good of our profession first and our own second? If the two clash do we not salve our consciences with the idea that our *duty* lies in the direction of self interest? Are we always as scrupulous as we should be about the rights of others; is not our motto rather "Everyone for herself"—"If I don't look after myself no one else will." Are we particular that the money we earn is *clean*, or do we shut our eyes to dishonourable methods of obtaining the clientèle of others, provided we pocket our £2 2s. a week? Do we even habitually put the welfare of our patients before our own? I am afraid we must most of us cry "Peccavi." Is it not true that if the selfish members of the Nursing Profession were eliminated, it would be no longer an over-stocked profession, but on every side there would be a demand for unattainable nurses. What is the opinion of your readers?

Faithfully yours,  
ONE OF THE MAJORITY.

**EPISCOPAL DIRECTIONS.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—The Social Problem in the NURSING RECORD, entitled "A Beauty Specialist," interested me greatly. I was amused at the account of the autocratic Bishop, more especially as I had just heard another story of a Bishop, who also laid down the law on the subject of moustaches, but apparently took a totally opposite view from his colleague, who objected to these appendages as not being "womanly." This dignitary was wont to counsel his ordination candidates thus. "Now I want to speak to you about moustaches. *Don't* wear a moustache. In the first place it is unnecessary, in the second place it is ugly, and in the third place it is *effeminate!*" Bishops apparently as well as doctors differ on occasions.

I am, dear Madam, faithfully yours,  
WRINKLED.

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