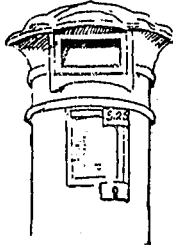


Letters to the Editor.

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.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I quite agree with your correspondent who thinks that maternity training should be included in a nurse's course. Medical men are obliged to qualify in medicine, surgery, and obstetrics, before they are eligible for registration, and if nurses are to be efficient helps to them, surely their education should be on the same lines. Medical men may have no intention of taking up midwifery work after they are qualified, but it is held, and rightly, that they should at least possess an elementary knowledge of it. Nurses are not expected to possess a corresponding elementary knowledge, I hold wrongly. But then what are they expected to possess? They have no uniform education, no minimum standard, no central examination, no compulsory registration, and it seems as if the struggle is likely to be a bitter one before we get any one of these. Indeed, one sometimes feels tempted to follow the example of the Pilgrim Fathers and migrate to a land where one would have liberty of conscience if less civilization. But after all, this would be a somewhat cowardly way out of the difficulty. It is braver, I think, to carry the colours so long as one is able, and hope that others will take them out of one's failing hands when one's time for rest comes, after "this fitful fever we call life," and carry them on to victory. If we hand them on to our successors untrampled on it will be much, and quite as much as we can hope for.

Yours faithfully,
PROGRESS.

THE NURSING PROFESSOR.*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—Your account of the visit to this country of Miss Hanna Kindbom, occupying as she does the unique position of holding the one chair of clinical nursing in the world, interested me greatly. But, what I should like to know is, why should Miss Kindbom be the only Matron to hold this honorable post, and why should America, of late years, have won far ahead of us on the road to professional organization? At one time we were certainly *facile princeps*. It is surely demonstrated, beyond question, that nursing is a science, and, this being so, why should not a chair of clinical nursing be instituted in connection with our own Universities? A professor of nursing would find plenty of opportunity for the employment of her talents; and I must say that I should like to see the Matrons of Addenbroke's Hospital, Cambridge, and of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford,

professors of clinical nursing in those respective universities. Is there anything against it? I know of nothing except our insular prejudices and British conservatism, which always seem to make any progress in this country a most difficult matter.

Yours faithfully,
RADICAL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I quite agree with your remarks as to the duty which hospital authorities owe to the public, of ensuring that all the patients brought to them shall be seen by fully qualified medical men. I should like to know what the General Medical Council think of this matter. If practitioners outside hospitals are "guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect," and are struck off the Medical Register if they "cover" unqualified practitioners, is there any exception made in favour of hospital physicians and surgeons covering students, and if so why? It would seem most unfair. "Covering" pure and simple it certainly is. The poor do not take their relatives to hospitals to see students. They have a righteous horror of "experiments," and they certainly would not take the trouble to go to a hospital at all unless they thought they would get expert advice by doing so. Is it right that it should be left to the discretion of an inexperienced student whether or no a case shall be brought to the notice of a qualified practitioner at all? I maintain it is altogether wrong.

Yours faithfully,
QUERY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It seems a little unfair that students working in the Out-Patient departments of our general hospitals should be blamed for ignorance. When patients are sent away who should be admitted, the system which permits unqualified men the responsibility of judgment is to blame. Surely it ought to be a strict rule that a student should merely be present in the Out-Patient Department in attendance on a qualified man, and not in any position of responsibility. Can we blame the poor if they sometimes complain of cursory treatment in the Out-Patients' department, if they find themselves treated by "the boys."

Yours truly,
S. M.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have just returned from a holiday, and I write to tell you how much I appreciated THE RECORD when I was abroad. Amongst many pleasant things, its weekly advent was quite one of the pleasantest, more especially as I found it very difficult to get English papers at all. I was able to realise therefore how much information of general as well as nursing interest you provide for us every week for the sum of one penny. I am proportionately grateful.

Faithfully yours,
A REGULAR READER.

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