

the subject may be followed up, and that something may be done, that all members of such an honorable profession may continue to wear their uniform without fear of it being adopted by those who have no right and are not worthy to wear it. I feel especial interest just now, as I am gladly receiving the kind attention of a trained nurse, and her neat uniform, both indoors and out, seems to inspire one with confidence and respect, and I cannot help feeling that anyone in need of the valuable services of trained nurses would hardly care to exchange this business-like appearance for the "blouse," or other "up-to-date costume."

Wishing every success to any one who has influence and who will take up the cause and bring it to a successful issue.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,
"A CONSTANT READER."

Hillmorton House,
Barby Road, near Rugby.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Surely "Neat not Gaudy" is a little harsh in her criticisms. Must nurses (simply because they are such) be compelled to make "frights" of themselves? Uniform of any description is bound to attract a certain amount of attention, and being women, I think it only natural that we should try and make our dress as becoming as is consistent with our profession.

"Neat not Gaudy" must have had very little experience of hospital management, seeing that most institutions provide a regulation uniform for their nurses; jewellery, high-heels, etc., being strictly forbidden. Of course, with us, as in every other walk in life, the innocent must suffer with the guilty; but, the evil might be lessened if hospital committees would either register their uniforms, or have a distinctive badge to be worn with it.

Yours truly, ERIN.

COOKERY FOR COMMON AILMENTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I thank you very much for your last week's Professional Review.

Cookery for Common Ailments is just the book I have been wanting for some time. I am giving lectures on Home Nursing. Next week my lecture is Rules for Feeding the Sick, and the value of various foods. I have got Cookery for common Ailments, and think it will be most helpful.

May I now make a request? I should be much pleased to see, in your valuable paper, a review on some book on *Nursing*. I want a book thoroughly up to date on nursing, pure and simple. Many of our most valuable books on nursing deal with the nature of diseases, and rather cut the details of nursing. Will you kindly review, or recommend, through your "Comments and Replies" column, such a book? What I require is *Home Nursing*. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours, MUCH GRATIFIED.

November 3rd, 1898.

[There is a very good little brochure on Home Nursing, compiled by Miss Margery Homersham, Associate of the Sanitary Institute, and Lecturer for the Ladies' Sanitary Association, and on Hygiene at the Northern Polytechnic. It is published by Allman & Co., New Oxford Street.—ED.]

MALE NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Having of late seen such a lot of bad opinions pertaining to male nurses and asylum attendants, I think it only right that we should support our defence, as those who are perfectly loyal and conscientious in their duties as nurses, are almost bound to suffer one way or another, not, perhaps, in finding cases, but feel inwardly injured at such sad remarks. Too well we know that man or woman is not infallible, even as regards attending to the bodily or mentally sick; but when one reads of a nurse sitting by the side of a patient "taking" shorthand notes of what the patient uttered, it is time after people are indirectly informed, or indirectly made to think, that all asylum Nurses are the self same thing. I claim a perfect right in saying that in the Asylum Nurses there will be found as kind, as loyal, and as business-like Nurses as ever saw the interior of a hospital. I wonder what kind of a training the editor thinks the Asylum Nurses have. I know that in some Asylums a training is superior to that of others; we are taught firstly, lessons in physiology, then we are lectured on all diseases, "mental and physical," and we have our sick wards for surgical and physical nursing. So if that is not sufficient after two or three years' service, to make a competent nurse, what is? I consider that we ought to be classed on an equal to our hospital nurses. In the various diseases of insanity, a nurse has far more anxiety and responsibility, than a dozen hospital nurses. If tact, devotion, and kindness is an essential, it is in mental nursing where, if a nurse is possessed of those qualities there it is bound to be shown; and no nurse who has not got those abilities, will ever prosper in her calling. I like to see in a person finding fault, to find it everywhere; my meaning, of course, is in respect to our hospital nurses—are they void of anything that's wrong? I know, too well, they are not; as I have seen very poor samples of nursing in the hospital nurse, whereas I, a male nurse, have given entire satisfaction to a great many doctors and friends while nursing both sick and mental cases. Ladies and gentlemen, whose houses I have been in, would not have paid me high fees if I had been incapable of performing my duties in a satisfactory manner. I trust the editor will not take offence in any way, as I think you will allow me to uphold my character as well as my brother nurses. Thanking you sincerely for your valuable space,

I am, dear Madam, your obedient Servant,
E. A. OVELL, Male Nurse,

The Ferns, Surbiton.

[We can assure Mr. E. A. Ovell that the Editor will not take offence at any expression of honest opinion upon the part of her correspondents. Moreover, she is so well aware of the training now given both to hospital and asylum nurses, that her only hope in criticising both systems is, that both may be in the near future, organised and extended for the ultimate benefit of all nurses and patients. We believe in a thorough practical training, which can only be learnt at the bedside of every variety of disease, and we believe in a lengthy experience, because it is only experience which can make perfect, and we are ambitious for the Profession of Nursing to be the most perfect, as it is, with that of medicine, one of the most noble professions in the world. Keep an open mind, and never be satisfied with your attainments, or you will attain little.—ED.]

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