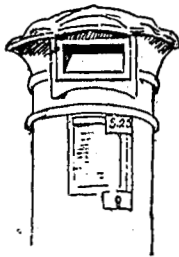


obtained from Mrs. Robert Borwick, Hon. Treasurer, 16, Berkeley Square; or Mrs. Elphinstone Maitland, Hon. Secretary, 9, Victoria Grove, Kensington.

January 20th.—The Duchess of Albany opens a new Nurses' Home in connection with the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

## 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.*

### REGISTRATION.

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

MADAM,—My attention has been called to several of your recent articles and notes on the subject of the registration of trained nurses, and as a member of the general public, without any merely technical training I venture to express my sympathy with the objects you appear to have set before you. I have been particularly interested in comparing the work you are endeavoring to carry out with a somewhat similar effort on the part of the Furriers Company, who have so far extended their system of registration as to render it almost impossible that a horse should be lamed or practically destroyed by improper treatment. It would hardly seem reasonable that our consideration for animals should go beyond that we feel for human beings, and I feel certain that the question only requires to be brought to the notice of the public to be carried through in a satisfactory manner. I am not considering in any way the advantages to the nursing profession, but it is obviously a question of life or death that patients should receive proper care, and in no other way than an efficient system of registration does it seem possible this essential can be made secure.

All honour to those who have pioneered the movement.

Yours faithfully,

G. DE VALAY.

### THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

DEAR EDITOR,—As a constant and deeply interested reader of your most admirable journal, please allow me to convey to you my thanks and the warm appreciation I feel for the outspoken courage with which you conduct your paper. In these days of trimming and twaddle, it is indeed a relief to turn weekly to my RECORD and feel sure that no personal fear or self-interest will influence the editorial opinions expressed in it. The last year's issue appears to me more and more valuable to the nurses, and to the public at large, of whom I am one, and it is only those, who like myself have a certain experience in newspaper work, who can appreciate at their full value the extent of your labours, and the many discouragements you must sustain, and the strong conviction that you must have that your work is *right*, that can have upheld you in the past, and is inspiring you with hope for the future. Continued success in 1899 to our NURSING RECORD.

Yours in cordial sympathy,

Birmingham.

ELEANOR WILKES,

### NURSES' MANNERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I had occasion lately to accompany a friend to several London Hospitals, and I should like to put on record how kindly we were received by the Matron's substitute who took us round, and by the dainty blue-frocked sisters who seemed so justly proud of their lovely wards, and so wrapped up in the welfare of their patients. The courtesy and kindness extended to us was most pleasing and were I a rich instead of a working woman, I should enjoy nothing better than supporting institutions so admirably conducted. Probably these Sisters and neat Nurses are the pick of the nursing profession, as to be quite just, I have observed many young women in the London streets in nursing uniform whose manners were by no means faultless, and in travelling behind some of these nurses in the garden seats of a 'bus, I have marvelled at the discreditable condition of their apparel, sat upon, dusty bonnets, soiled aprons, and cuffs and collars. Surely if a uniform is worn it should be as cleanly and spotless as ordinary attire. But I fear that this fact is not sufficiently appreciated by our private nurses. One nurse told me as a joke that she had worn her uniform bonnet for three years, and I believe her to judge from its sorely battered and faded appearance. How fresh and charming is the appearance of our Naval and Army Sisters, but then their uniform carries with it much valued prestige, and is worn with distinction in consequence.

ONE WHO OWES MUCH TO NURSES.

### WHY NOT MALE NURSES?

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think one of the reasons why we women nurses will be chary of encouraging the admission of men to our profession is that past events in the nursing world have unhappily proved to us that when we, with the best intentions in the world, associate ourselves for professional purposes with the male sex, we are apt, as has been the case in the Royal British Nurses' Association, to go to the wall altogether. If male nurses meet a public want, no doubt male nurses we shall have, but I really do not think that it is incumbent upon us to go out of our way to make things easy for them. If they once get a footing in our hospitals, I am afraid the story of the camel who obtained leave to put his nose into a hut, and who ended by comfortably housing his whole body while the owner of the hut was dispossessed will be repeated. How long will male nurses be content with subordinate positions, and with being supervised by women? Will they not demand male Ward Sisters, and male Matrons? And then good-bye to the refinements, the niceties, and the economical management which prevail under female rule. I must own I do not look forward to the introduction of the male nursing element into our hospitals. I do not think it would be conducive to the well-being of the patients, and then, think of the additional anxiety it means to the Matrons. Nurses are not allowed to talk to students except on professional matters, but how could such a rule be enforced with regard to nurses who hob-nob over the tea-cups in the ward kitchens? Your's faithfully,

DUBIOUS.

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