

nurses outside the matter naturally—how much preliminary training we may be permitted to have.

When the powers that be have considered all these questions, and solved them, *perhaps* they will then take into consideration the advisability of post graduate courses. By that time I fancy most of us who now desire these lectures will be in that stage of existence known as second childhood, and the lectures will consequently be of little value to us. But surely we are not going to sit down and wait till somebody does what we want for us. We may wait a long time if we wait till the Royal British Nurses' Association asks us to attend a course of post graduate lectures, about as long I expect as women shall wait for men to come round and beg us to accept the franchise. Meanwhile, why should we not do something practical? There is a great outcry in certain quarters for practical nurses—well, let us satisfy it and be practical for once. If a little country village wants a course of University Extension Lectures what does it do? It selects an energetic person as honorary secretary, and he or she beats up recruits, and when a sufficient number of people have paid their guinea to justify the course, he writes to Oxford or Cambridge and engages a lecturer. Surely if a small country village can do this, amongst the many certificated nurses who live in London there should be no difficulty in finding fifty or sixty who would pay a guinea for a course of lectures to be held every fortnight from October to April. This sum would pay our lecturer or lecturers, and the cost of a room, where the lectures would be held, and we should have the very material advantage that "those who pay the piper call the tune," and we could engage what lecturer we choose. I do not even feel absolutely certain that some members of the medical profession who "won't have nurses educated" might not materially alter their views if it meant golden guineas to them! But I had better stop before I write more rank heresy, or I shall be getting myself into trouble. I'm good for a guinea anyway.

Yours faithfully,
A PRACTICAL PERSON.

MALE RULE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your report of Miss Poole's paper, and the interesting discussion which followed it at the Conference of the Matrons' Council affords much food for reflection, but I feel, at least, compelled to say how entirely I agree with Miss Mollett in her opinion as to the immense mistake it is to place women under the authority of men. "Not only of bad men, but of good men also." As to the undesirability of the former arrangement we are all I think agreed. But as to the latter, there is some diversity of opinion, and Miss Mollett's view cannot be too frequently expressed, and emphasised. For this reason, the better the man is the more likely he is from that very fact to become the cat-paw of unscrupulous and designing women. He believes in women. His mother and his sisters have taught him to do that, and consequently when he meets the other sort he does not recognise her, but believes all she tells him for profound truth. A good woman is sometimes even with a woman of this type, a good man practically never, and the mischief she is able to make is incalculable. She goes to the male superintendent, for instance, and tells him that the hospital is entirely

mismanaged, that the Matron (this in strict confidence) is quite incompetent, that the latter has a special spite against herself because she has found this out, and "has her knife into her" in consequence, that all the good work done in the hospital is done by herself, and the last arrow in her bow which invariably flies "straight to the gold" is probably that, with tears in her eyes, she says if she could not bring her troubles to her male superintendent, and be sure that he would understand them, she doesn't know what in the world she should do. She leaves him happy in the consciousness that she has been believed, and has "sown dissension," and he, very uncomfortable, probably does not go, as he certainly should go; to the Matron, and "have it out," but he inevitably becomes suspicious, and makes himself generally disagreeable till the Matron bethinks herself "*Cherchez la femme*," and arrives in time at the true reason of her Medical Officer's cantankerousness. When she has discovered it, however, she is by no means at the end of her troubles, and the chances are about even as to whether the Matron, or her unscrupulous pupil, will come off victor. In the latter case the pupil, when she has succeeded in "ousting" her Matron, will step into her vacant shoes, to which all along she has been aspiring, and which her plans have been laid to obtain, and the "good man" will heave a sigh of relief that at last he has got rid of an unconscientious Matron, and has a woman in charge of the nursing department whom he can thoroughly trust, and who will relieve him of much of the anxiety which he has felt for so long. Have I overdrawn the picture? I believe there are many Matrons who could testify that I have not.

Yours truly,
AN OBSERVANT WOMAN.

SALARIES OF DISTRICT NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Week after week I read your progressive paper with much pleasure and interest, and am much surprised that the interests of one class of nurses are left so severely alone. I refer to District Nurses. In nearly every week's issue of the NURSING RECORD, District Nurses are advertised for, the average salaries offered £60 per annum, and sometimes even less, £51 per week. What kind of nurses are expected to offer their services for such remuneration. And yet "fully trained nurses" are frequently advertised for, but not always. For instance, in this week's advertisements is the following:—A District Nurse wanted for Wealdstone, near Harrow. Salary £60, inclusive. Will "fully trained Nurses" apply for these posts? If not, partially or untrained nurses must be employed, which will be a disadvantage both to the sick and the Nursing Profession. If nursing is to progress, every branch must be cared for. The interests of Private Nurses have been discussed by the Matrons' Council; if the Matrons would likewise take up the interests of District Nurses it would no doubt be beneficial to that class of nurses. No trained nurse would think of accepting a fee of less than a guinea per week in private nursing, and frequently a higher fee is charged, exclusive of expenses. Then why should District Nurses be offered a salary which is much below any fee which would be considered adequate for a trained nurse's service in any other branch of nursing.

A District Nurse receiving a salary of £60 (we will leave out the £51 per week) after paying all expenses,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)