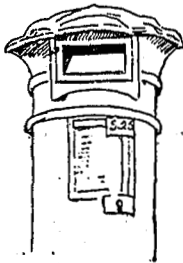


Letters to the Editor.

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.

PIONEER NURSING IN GREECE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to congratulate you and British Nurses at large, upon the compliment paid to them by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Sparta, in giving evidence of her appreciation of their labours in the late war, and the high opinion she has formed of their efficiency by appointing British nurses to organize the military nursing in Greece; and also to take charge of the Children's Hospital at Athens. It is a well deserved compliment, and I have no doubt that the pioneers will open up new fields of work for nurses in countries adjacent to Greece. I know the country well, having worked in Athens, and I feel sure when once our English nurses in their neat uniforms become recognised there, that their services will be in request in private families. At present there is no institution in Athens for sending out private or district nurses, and much suffering amongst both rich and poor is the result, but no doubt this reform will soon follow in the wake of the work to be so soon begun under such happy auspices.

Believe me,

Truly yours,

"ONE WHO WORKED IN THE WAR."

THE ROYAL BRITISH ASSOCIATION NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Miss Henrietta Wedgwood's attitude of mind on the question of her sex, so naively expressed in the *Nurses' Journal*, and to which you allude in your editorial last week, would be amusing if it was not so pitiable. It is almost impossible to realise that a lady holding the responsible position of Matron to a Nurse Training School, could unblushingly write as Miss Wedgwood has done. First she tells us quite plainly we are fools without reasoning powers, and then she commends those nurses who are also knavish fools for being sufficiently thoughtless to vote for a resolution because "H. R. H. the President wished it," and not because they "had carefully weighed for themselves the respective merits" of the case. Miss Wedgwood's article throws a curious light on the British Nurses' Association question, and will go far to convince the unprejudiced of the degradation to which unprincipled toadies will descend. I have known Miss Wedgwood to ask one of the Royal Free Nurses to attend a B.N.A. meeting "to vote for the Princess." This I consider unjustifiable pressure upon the part of a Matron, but to use her present arguments in the *Nurses' Journal* is to expose the vulgar methods employed in the R.B.N.A. to public reprobation, and no doubt to the contempt which they deserve. Is it surprising that nearly all our self-respecting Matrons have resigned?

Yours,

(Late M.R.B.N.A.)

DEAR MADAM,—The NURSING RECORD loyally supports nursing discipline, and in consequence the justifiable authority of the Matrons. But what opinion must the educated public form of our sense of duty, and capacity for responsibility when they read such a deplorable article as the one penned by Miss Wedgwood, to which you alluded in last week's RECORD? It is an insult to the meanest understanding, and it is worse, for it gives evidence upon the part of a lady holding a responsible public position, of a lack of *esprit de corps*, which is most prejudicial to every Matron in the land. That our professional interests have been betrayed for such paltry ends is a disgrace, which it will take Nurses many years to redeem in the eyes of the public.

Yours, &c.,

ONE WHO HAS RESIGNED.

DISTRICT NURSES' SALARIES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—From time to time, whining complaints arise in the columns of the NURSING RECORD and another paper from Nurses about various subjects, one of them being on the above heading. But what is the good of whining to others, and what good is it writing to professional papers which the public rarely see? It seems to me that the only and best way of righting our wrongs is for each one of us to act, and to remember that though each one of us is only a unit in the profession, yet not an action of ours takes place, but it leaves its mark and sends its reflection on the whole of our community. It is because nurses only consider themselves and not others that the wrongs continue. Small blame to the public for offering us small salaries as long as they find nurses to accept them; small blame to those who advise the "Worm-crawl," as long as we find selfish nurses, and as long as we have nurses who will cringe and crawl, because they haven't the spirit and independence to do otherwise—so long will we, as a class, be patronised and down-trodden. Let District Nurses refuse to accept those posts on those terms and the public will raise their salaries.

Yours truly, E. R. W.

[We are inclined to think nurses have themselves to blame for many things of which they complain, but a public complaint does often acquaint the public with matters of which they are ignorant, and sets them thinking and redressing wrongs. Because district nurses visit the poor, that is no reason that their services should be accepted by Committees on a semi-charitable basis; and a nurse who has to keep herself upon £60 a year is certainly worse off than an average domestic, who gets a clear salary. It is sad that people pay their cooks and men servants much higher salaries than they offer to a district nurse. But there is only one remedy—the skilled worker must not accept such low remuneration for her work. But then again the half trained and unskilled worker is always ready to undersell disorganised labour. These are all matters which the Chartered Corporation was organised to deal with, but under the new Bye Laws there is no hope that these economic questions will be permitted to be considered. Every effort upon the part of the founders to use the Association for the benefit of the nursing profession has been discouraged and prevented by the policy of "suppress."—Ed.]

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