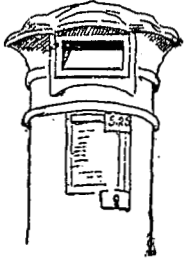


Letters to the Editor.

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.

AN EFFICIENT CURRICULUM.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Nurses find their three years' training so long, because in many instances it is so ill-arranged, and instead of the time being divided so that one gets a few months' working in every department, a nurse may train at one of the largest London Hospitals, and yet get no practical experience in the gynæcological wards, eye wards, out-patient department, surgery, nor get any lessons in massage or cooking. For the first two years I do think the Probationers should have an opportunity of gaining practical experience in all the various departments, and give up the third year to act as stationary staff nurses. In the two years there is ample time for all the general departments, cookery, and massage, and if our training schools were affiliated to the Fever and Maternity Hospitals, those nurses who were going to do Private Nursing should also work in these special institutions. It is all very well for nurses to consider it "hard" to be compelled to train thoroughly, but the slipshod methods now in vogue won't last much longer, because the public are fully awake to their own interests, and they won't put up with raw specialists and other "inefficients" much longer. I have often been nurse in a house where both the master and mistress of the house were well up in domestic hygiene and first aid, and the nurse's ignorance won't pass muster. I am now at a case of a little child suffering from advanced heart disease, and am told by the mother I am the first "trained nurse" who has not attempted to suffocate the child by closing up all the windows at a certain hour in the evening. The harder the curriculum the better. I thank you, dear madam, for your advanced views and unwavering support to a higher and more efficient standard of nursing education. Many nurses are with you.

Yours truly,

C. M.

NOT A BIT TOO STRONG.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am a constant reader of your admirable paper, and am inclined to think your article on "The Whole Nursing Question" not a bit too strong. The public are at the mercy of all sorts and conditions of women, who somehow get a scrap of training, and then "take up private nursing," and we are defenceless—let the doctors say what they will.

I will give you a case in point. I have a poor friend who is a dipsomaniac. A short time ago, she was in a sad condition; her doctor, the kindest of men, persuaded her to have a nurse, and recommended one

and sent her in. The patient did not take to her, and made a statement to the doctor that the nurse was dishonest, and was even then wearing her underlinen, which the patient saw her take from the wardrobe in her bedroom. The doctor smiled; such a statement coming from a dipsomaniac was, of course, a delusion, and he treated it as such. Nevertheless, at the week's end, he thought it wisest for the nurse to leave. When she was gone, it was found by myself that she had actually taken a large stock of the patient's linen, although I knew it would be useless to take the matter into Court under the circumstances. This woman has since been publicly accused of theft, and has suffered imprisonment for the same; yet she came into the house of this poor helpless, if erring, woman upon a medical man's recommendation. How can this be, if the control of the Nursing profession is all that can be desired. Would it not be possible to have some questions asked in the House, on the dangers to the sick, which the employment of such women constitutes?

Yours,

A MAY-BE PATIENT.

WORKHOUSE NURSING.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I must be brief, for though I have much to say, yet I have but little time to write it in. First, in answer to your comments on my last letter, I should like to tell you that I attended not long ago, a conference on "Poor Law Nursing," at which a paper was read by a Superintendent of a Workhouse, in which she told us of the condition of things in Infirmaries and of the difficulty they had in obtaining a good class nurse, and after a good deal of discussion on the subject, a lady (who had been a Nurse and a Superintendent of a London Hospital) rose and proposed a resolution that 1st, inmate help should be abolished and nursing done only by trained women; 2nd, that Infirmaries should be under the supervision of a Medical man and a trained Superintendent and absolutely apart and independent from the Master and Matron. The resolution was proposed and seconded, but there it fell for it was not carried. The Lady Guardians talked and the trained Nurses talked too, but they were not understood and there the matter lay and has lain ever since. That is why the thought struck me, that if more Lady Nurses took up the work, they would be better able to convey to a better class of the public the real condition of things and thus attack the enemy from a different side.

This brings me to the point of answering "Common Sense." It certainly may sound inconsistent to talk of "fashionable movements" in the Nursing World, but they exist all the same, and "fashionable movements," though they may sound frivolous, are, if founded on good, invariably followed by good results. With regard to E. M. J. in reference to nursing the plague, I am afraid that she has betrayed the fact that she resents her heroism and self abnegation not being rewarded. Nursing in Infirmaries is a sacrifice, there is nothing but dull obscurity in it, but I am still convinced that if better class nurses could be induced in numbers to take it up, a reform would soon follow.

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO THINKS,

AND WHO LOVES HER PROFESSION.

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