

for those nurses in the 'forties,' who through the 'Record,' I have noticed, complain of the difficulty of getting employment.

I am, MADAM, Yours faithfully,  
AN IRISH MATRON.

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

MADAM,—The Augean Stable of Poor Law Infirmaries is not to be cleaned in a day, and to effect even a modicum of decency and order in these terrible institutions means years of work and almost super-human effort. The Irish Local Government Board is conscious of the iniquitous state of the Irish workhouses, and is rightly anxious for reform; but the Board is composed of men only, and they have not the expert knowledge to effect *domestic and nursing organization*. This must be done by women. All praise to the Board for its excellent intentions—let it avail itself of the knowledge and experience of some experienced medical men and hospital Matrons. We have many such in Ireland who would gladly give their services to this distressful nation in this hour of need. I know these Infirmaries and their management—they are piggeries.

Yours,  
AN IRISHWOMAN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The letter of an "Irish Sister" in your last issue complains of the hardness of the new Order of the Local Government Board respecting the nurses now working.

Crude indeed, and demoralising in the extreme, is much of the Poor Law as now carried out, to the unfortunate woman who, with a family of weakly children, finds herself obliged to enter the gates of the workhouse, knowing, poor thing, that if those children survive they will graduate in crime, and if they ever leave the workhouse will probably, from their bringing up, soon be in the State Prison.

How many lives are lost each year in those Infirmaries by inefficient nursing? A life should be of value to the State. Rates are paid which provide for what? Might it not be more humane to arrange a lethal Chamber where Euthanasia would be short and may be less of a stigma on the civilization!! of the 19th Century. The Irish Hospitals undoubtedly are poor, but is not much of this poverty due to there being too many small ones, one hospital one man, and to just becoming a lever for the one?

Until women recognize the necessity of working more together, they must expect to pay in full and leave a surplus, which may be spent on the capital letters of a few names.

The Irish Workhouse Infirmaries would, small and great linked together, form excellent training ground for their future nurses, leaving the General Hospitals still to train for those able to pay for their services, and thus giving occupation to an increasing number of eligible candidates needing to earn their own living, at the same time supplying the Guardians of the poor with what they now advertise in vain for, and relieving the public of the terrible slur of inhumanity in their provision for those unable to provide for themselves.

It is to be hoped the L. G. B. will soon devise a plan for re-filling the gap so suddenly made by the removal of the pauper nurses, but whether consultation with the doctors and matrons will lead to a satisfactory solution of the difficulty is doubtful, if we take the R. B. N. A. officials as a recognised authority and *café chantant* a means of paying the expenses. Nurses should have sufficient self-respect to demand the necessaries and decencies of life, leaving out some comforts after a long day's work; the fact is that their wages are in many cases so small, and their working years too few to enable them to provide for old age; consequently a large percentage will become inmates of the Institutions they now serve.

Believe me, Yours truly,  
LOOKER-ON.

April 8th, 1889.

#### AN OBSOLETE DOCUMENT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many nurses holding a Certificate of Training for one year will read your article of last week headed "An Obsolete Document" with gratitude, indeed having suffered endless disappointment in applying for good positions in the Nursing World because of this futile piece of parchment, I am thankful that you are bringing the matter before the public. Hospital authorities should put a stop to hospitals selling one year's certificates, they only delude the poor women who are unfortunate enough to buy one. The three years' standard has come to stay. In awaiting the millennium, when there will be some State Department empowered to deal with nursing education and control, I heartily re-echo your remarks on the question in last week's RECORD.

Yours truly,  
"ONE OF THE INJURED."

#### FLIES AND DISEASE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in your article on "Flies and Typhoid Fever" in last week's NURSING RECORD. Having lived in the tropics, I strongly formed the opinion that malaria is communicated by flies. We hear a great deal about mosquitoes conveying the infection of malaria, but very little about flies, and yet surely, of the two, the more direct infection is likely to come from the latter. Mosquitoes infest by inoculation only, but flies, after living in swamps, after infesting open drains, and fattening on every kind of disgusting refuse, come and settle in hundreds, and I think it may be said without exaggeration, thousands, on the food that one is about to eat. The table is very often black with them. It has always seemed to me that these flies form a source of direct infection, which has not so far received the attention it deserves. Perhaps the Commission on Malaria will take this question into consideration. I await with much interest the result of the investigations of that commission, as, so far, the cause of malaria seems to be very obscure.

I am, Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
REASONER.

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