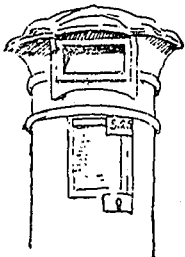


Letters to the Editor.

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.

THE SUPPRESSED REGISTER.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—We are indebted to you for your lucid analysis of the roll of members of the Royal British Nurses Association, more especially as many of us at the present time do not care to spend money on this publication, and so would know nothing about it, were it not for the RECORD. I notice that the number of new members of the Royal British Nurses Association during the past year is 79, that means about an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ new members to register a week. Well, I should scarcely think the registrar is overworked! Neither, I imagine, for the matter of that, is the Secretary. One might almost think that the two offices might be combined in one person without serious detriment to her health from excessive duties in connection with the post; but there—it is no use talking. The Hon. Officers say they are not extravagant, and they ought to know. *Nurses* have very definite and strong views on the subject, but nurses' opinions are at a discount in the counsels of the Royal British Nurses' Association at the present time. Of that we are all well aware. Ah well—the worst of it is it is our own fault, a little more courage, a little more conscience, and a little more honour, and the Nurses Association would have remained in their own hands and not have been captured, and turned to their undoing by the third-rate medical men alluded to in your article.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
ICHABOD.

HOSPITAL MORTUARIES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see your article on the care of Hospital Mortuaries, last week. I am quite sure that the subject is one which needs to be brought before hospital authorities, and the public, again and again, until the truth penetrates their minds that reform is necessary in this direction. My experience of public institutions is that they are, as a rule, so imbued with a conviction of their own perfection, and so encased in a shell of self-satisfaction, that it is the hardest work in the world to convince them that there is anything in the least undesirable in arrangements that they have, in their wisdom, seen fit to make. Therefore, though to ordinarily unprejudiced minds it would seem the most obvious thing in the world that hospital porters are not the most suitable people to have charge of mortuaries, or to attend the relatives of deceased patients when they visit them after death, yet it will probably be necessary to point out the incongruity of such a proceeding again

and again, and, until the official mind at length conceives the idea that the arrangement is not absolutely perfect, we shall still continue to have mothers mourning for an only child taken to view the body, and receiving such solace as is possible from the hospital porter, bodies arranged, after a post mortem examination has been held, by the hospital porter, not to mention the door of the post mortem room being left ajar, or the curtain which separates it from the mortuary undrawn, by the same official. But, these, things are not paraded before or realised by hospital committees, for the simple reason they do not see them, and what the eye does not see the heart does not grieve over.

It would be of great interest to know how many committee men ever consider it part of their duty to visit our hospital mortuaries. I venture to say not many. I should very much like to know if the mortuaries were included in the visit of inspection paid by the Committee appointed by the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund; and, if so, what recommendations have been made on this important subject. Had there been a woman on this Committee, I venture to say that the recommendations would have been many.

I am, Madam,
Yours obediently,
BEHIND THE SCENES.

RECOGNISED TRAINING SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I think "A Constant Reader" has failed to grasp the situation the small hospitals are placed in when she says they are to have no probationers, only certificated nurses; what of the money question? Would she do away with the paying probationer? Or, supposing they give no premium, the hospital cannot afford to pay well-trained nurses in their place, and many would object to do probationer's work. I am sure it is nice to have a mind so easily settled—mine is, on one point, that to be fair all round, the more one studies the question the more difficult it becomes. Will some matron of a small hospital give her views on this subject. I quite agree all matrons should be trained nurses.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
NOUS VERRONS.

REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It was with great pleasure that I read in last week's RECORD that the Irish Local Government Board is about to issue a Register of its own. On all sides there is proof of the growing feeling that a public Nursing Register is needed, and this is but the latest. Public opinion is educated slowly, but it grows none the less surely, and one must think that it has been demonstrated of late sufficiently strongly in the police courts if nowhere else, that for the protection of the sick, and of private families, from the entrance of undesirable women into their houses, that the publication of a Nursing Register under legal authority is merely a question of time.

I am, Dear Madam,
Faithfully yours,
UNREGISTERED.

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