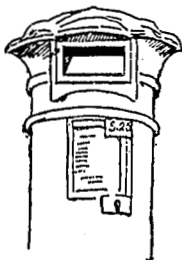


Letters to the Editor.

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.

JUSTICE AND COMMON-SENSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with extreme interest the letter which you published in your last issue from a South African correspondent, with regard to nursing organization in that country. She proves up to the hilt the absolute necessity for the representation of nurses upon the Board which governs them, a point upon which you have always so wisely and justly insisted. One statement made by your correspondent struck me as strange, namely, that if a doctor reports a midwife to the Council, she is at once suspended without any inquiry. Surely this is a very high-handed proceeding, and contrary to British justice. The right of reply to any accusation which may be made should surely be conceded to every one. Imagine such a possibility in this country! I hope if any bill regulating the control of midwives is passed that its promoters will see that the rights of midwives in this particular are very carefully protected. Considering the immense amount of jealousy there is on the part of a certain section of the medical profession against both midwives and nurses, their position would be quite intolerable if any medical man, who chose to report a nurse, could be sure of having her suspended from work for periods varying from three to nine months. Surely British nurses, supine as they have for the most part been where their professional interests are concerned, will recognise the danger which such a power in the hands of the medical profession would be to them.

Again, the need of nurse representation is apparent when such an important question as the length of training is under discussion. Surely the Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools should know better than any one else what constitutes an efficient training, but the wishes of nurses on a subject which concerns them so vitally were "wholly disregarded." Well—I honour South Africa for being the first country in the world to obtain the legal registration of nurses, it was an immense step forward; but new beginnings are always tentative, and as time goes on it is generally found that some mistakes were made. Let us profit by the experience gained for the whole nursing profession by our sisters at the Cape, and in any legislation which may be promoted in this country, let every nurse who values professional liberty and progress take care to ensure that there is adequate representation of her own profession on the Body which governs her.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
WIDE AWAKE.

THE PROTECTION OF UNIFORM.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is a curious coincidence that the sensible remarks made by "A Friend of Nurses" in your valuable journal should be borne out by an incident related in the same number of the RECORD.

Bendy and Reece were summoned for venturing to appear in a uniform similar to a military one, and of subjecting it to derision. They appear to have done this with a good object, but this did not prevent their having to pay costs in consequence. How many women there are who don a dress similar to a nurse's uniform with no good object in view—in fact very often much the opposite. I do so sympathise with "A Friend of Nurses" in her desire to have the uniform protected. Then perchance we might see "Satan in Petticoats" summoned for degrading a dress which should be a consecrated one, with the result that such travesties of the genuine article would come to an end.

Finally, I should like to appeal to the general public not to abet this practice of untrained women of dressing in nurse's uniform.

Only the other day I heard one lady remark to another, "What numbers of nurses there are in B—!"

"Oh well," replied the other with a smile; "thereby hangs a tale. It is well known that many ladies who are semi-invalids require their maids to wear a uniform when they attend them in their drives or bath chairs. You see it looks so much better."

Faithfully yours,
FAIR PLAY.

THE NEW WOMAN.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The poem you published last week on the "New Woman" is most inspiring, and deserves to be widely known. I feel that amongst our many debts of gratitude to you, our indebtedness for the way in which you always give us the cream of the week on matters pertaining to women's interests is great. We busy nurses have not time to wade through all the papers for items of news of special interest to our sex; and now that the *Woman's Signal* is, alas, no longer a weekly joy, we should be badly off did not you do the skimming for us, and present us with the cream. Mrs. Montefiore's name, as an active supporter of all that makes for the good of women, is, of course, well known to me; but I was ignorant of the fact that she was a poet. I was most glad to know it, for, beyond the pleasure that her lines gave to me personally, I am sure that the woman who has the power of expressing herself in verse, may reach a large number of people who remain untouched by arguments which may be irrefutable and unassailable, but which do not strike home in the same way as a simple poem often will. I shall look out in the future for more poems by the same author.

The news that women in Western Australia and Victoria now have the franchise is good indeed. When, oh when, shall we hear of similar legislation in our own Houses of Parliament?

I am, dear Madam,
Yours very truly,
A REGULAR SUBSCRIBER.

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