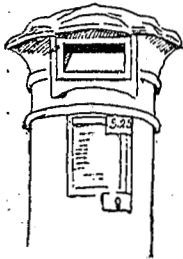


Letters to the Editor.

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.

"WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Having been from home these five weeks I have only now seen the last report of the Morgan affair. Can you afford me space for a few remarks on the principle involved which has so far been successfully obscured by those on the side of the defendant. Those of us who wish for the Hospital discipline usually observed, have desired and challenged the fullest enquiry. The friends of the defendant (Miss de Pledge) have successfully defeated us. Whether it was a friendly act I leave for your readers to decide. For myself it appears to leave no loophole from complete condemnation.

Moreover it has never been denied that the pillow was placed so as to alter the patient's position and strain the abdominal muscles; and that it was *not* done by the doctor's orders. This brings me to what I would ask; that the case of Workhouse Infirmaries should be taken up, and that they should be placed in the position which they do really occupy, *i.e.*, on the Municipal Hospital footing.

These Infirmaries are a quite new outcome of our social needs; Guardians are proverbially antiquated Bodies. Bumble has an evil reputation; and it is an important thing that those Infirmaries which have at all gone ahead, having execrable places only to be compared with, are conceded a position quite out of proportion to their real merit. It is only to-day that we are beginning to find it necessary to have fully-trained certificated nurses as Matrons. There are still numbers of Matrons who are not thoroughly trained or certificated. Bumble has to live and learn, and alas! he is very slow at that. What we want immediately is some definite instruction as to hospital discipline; and, what is the rule in other hospitals, a visiting staff of doctors (paid, not unpaid) which would be an immense relief to our resident staff. Then I am quite sure there should be an Infirmary Committee, *compulsory*. It is farcical, as you justly say, the present position at Chelsea; but it is the inevitable result of important matters being dealt with by a heterogeneous collection of people.

Business in details cannot be conducted by such an unwieldy body.

Yours faithfully,
FLORENCE GROVE, P. L. G.

THE NURSES' TRAINING COLLEGE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with the very greatest interest your account of the course in Hospital Economics for graduate nurses in connection with Teachers' College, Columbia University, initiated by the American Society

of Superintendents. It appears to me a most splendid thing. One thing is not mentioned which I should very much like to know, namely, whether the course is open only to American nurses, or whether British nurses, endorsed by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, would be eligible to enter as students and so obtain the benefits of this course. As we have at present in this country no post graduate course of training for future Superintendents, the one now instituted at Columbia College would be of the very greatest benefit to any British nurses who are able to go to America, and profit by it. Whether this is allowed or not I think that the nurses of all nations are greatly indebted to the American Society of Superintendents. They have taken a step which was most urgently needed, and now that the ball has been set rolling it will continue to do so, so that we may hope, in course of time, that every country where there is nursing organization will have its own Superintendents' College.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
INTERNATIONALIST.

NURSING ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your issue of last week was most encouraging. We may well take "heart of grace" when we see how nursing organization is progressing all the world over. It is a sure proof that in this country the much needed reforms cannot be very long delayed, and that in spite of all obstruction, and the difficulties which invariably beset reformers, you will see even in England those improvements in nursing organization for which you have worked so hard and unceasingly. I fully endorse your opinion that the establishment in connection with Columbia College of a course of training for Superintendents of Nurses is the most progressive and important step made for many years in connection with nursing organization. The need of such a course in this country is so obvious that one can only wonder that it has not long since been inaugurated. At present many certificated nurses are feeling the need of special instruction to fit them for holding the important position of superintendent, and many committees feel that they have a right to require something more than a three years' certificate of competency in nursing before placing an applicant in charge of the training school for nurses and the domestic department of a hospital, but at present this is difficult of attainment. In the future we may now be hopeful that this difficulty will be solved.

Yours faithfully,
PROGRESSIVE.

THE BART'S LEAGUE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I feel sure that many nurses not trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital heartily welcome the pioneer League of Nurses which has been lately founded by those trained at "Barts," and whilst wishing their colleagues every success and benefit from their professional co-operation, hope that other schools will follow suit. May we live to see the day when the twelve large London training schools will all have their Leagues for "mutual help and pleasure," and when the members of each will be able to meet together occasionally in sisterly intercourse, free from the pre-

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