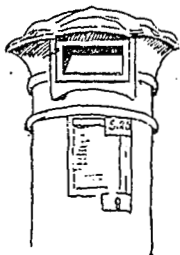


Letters to the Editor.

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.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read and re-read with the keenest pleasure the article by Miss L. L. Dock, printed in your last issue. It is the most able description of the situation of nursing politics in this country that I have ever read. It set me thinking. I wondered how many English nurses, who paid a week's visit to America, would in that time grasp the position of nursing there as thoroughly, and write home as good an article. It seems to me there is something wrong about our English training. It turns out many excellent *machines*, who are able to perform their work almost perfectly, but it does not produce women who think. Indeed the one object of our training seems to be, it probationers have any individuality, to efface it, and if they show symptoms of brain power, to reduce them to the verge of idiocy by repeated snubbings. So by the end of their three years' training they have become perhaps mechanically perfect, but the real living heart, and soul, and brains, are so battered and bruised as to be almost unrecognisable. When will it be part of our training-school course to teach nurses to *think*, and have some opinion on the things which most vitally concern them?

Yours faithfully,
A BRITISH NURSE.

THE PRICE OF ARMY NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I regret to see any criticism of the War Office arrangements concerning the nursing of the sick. Surely at this time of national trouble, the best way is to keep silence, and thus not make further disagreeables. Comparing the prices paid to doctors and nurses is very unprofessional; of course medical men are worth much more than nurses, and ought to be paid much higher salaries—every loyal nurse will agree to that—and it seems quite unnecessary to allude at all to the fact, that those whom you disrespectfully describe as "Big Surgeons" are to receive any pay. I thought that they were volunteers, and as such gave their services, and of course nothing can sufficiently remunerate such important titled medical men, whilst hundreds of nurses are ready to go to the front for nothing, and would never be missed.

A LOYAL NURSE.

[We insert this letter because as a specimen of terrible *disloyalty* to sex it appears unparalleled, and yet it innocently pays a rare tribute to the unselfish and patriotic devotion of women nurses—"Hundreds of nurses are ready to go to the front for nothing"—and

the majority of our English nurses are so patriotic and devoid of self-interest, that if hundreds of them set forth for the seat of war, "they never would be missed," because of the hundreds of equally devoted colleagues they would leave behind. We prefer to put this construction upon a letter which, at first reading, made us "squirm" in the editorial chair.—ED.]

LODGINGS FOR WORKING WOMEN.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I see that the question of lodgings for working women is coming on the tapis, and very glad I am of it. It seems a most difficult thing to find any reasonably comfortable quarters unless one is prepared to pay an exorbitant price, or else to submit to all sorts of puerile rules and regulations framed in the interests of nobody in particular. It seems to me that that what is needed is a house managed on the principles of an hotel instead of a girls school. Personally, what I should prefer is a place where I could have an unfurnished, room or rooms, with some attendance, and meals, at a fixed tariff per meal, in a public dining room, at small tables, so that one need not necessarily talk to one's neighbour. A latch key would complete my desiderata, and I feel sure that many nurses feel as I do. These aspirations do not seem very unreasonable, but, practically, they are very difficult of fulfilment. It would be interesting to know what other nurses think, and what they would be prepared to pay for comfortable accommodation arranged on these lines,

I am dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
NOMAD.

IS IT DECENT?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have not noticed any remarks in your journal on the question of infirmary women nurses bathing male patients. In certain Poor Law Infirmarys this most horrible custom still exists, and male guardians do not seem to see the enormity of it. Would it be too much to ask you to deal with the question? The RECORD is now so widely read, and carries so much weight, that I am sure if you can find space to discuss this matter in all its bearings, it might do much to stop a practice which really makes some infirmarys unfit for decent women to work in.—Yours,

"CAMBRIDGE."

[We will "say a few words" next week.—ED.]

To our Correspondents & Contributors.

WILL our readers kindly notice that communications for insertion in the current number of the NURSING RECORD should reach the editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., *if possible*, not later than Wednesday morning. We receive much interesting matter just after we have gone to press which, if sent a few posts earlier, could be inserted, but is stale a week later.

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