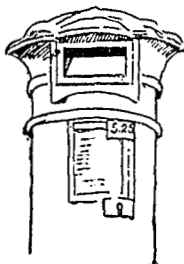


Letters to the Editor.

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.

WE FEEL FLATTERED.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read your little "chat with Miss Hibbard" with so much pleasure, that I deeply regret as it is so near Christmas I cannot get up to make her acquaintance on Thursday at our "At Home." We Country Matrons miss much and don't know how we could keep up with nursing affairs if it were not for the RECORD. Long may you have health and strength to continue your arduous duties as Editor.

Yours ever truly,

"A MEMBER OF THE MATRONS' COUNCIL."

THE ARMY NURSING RESERVE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I observe that you have made many references to the affairs of the Army Nursing Reserve, and I do think it most unfair that so many of the Sisters, who are being sent on active service, should take precedence of the senior members of the Reserve, I have two friends who joined when the Society was first started, both well-qualified in every way, who have never been called up at all, and you report the names of Sisters going to the front who have only joined since the war broke out. No doubt these Sisters have influence and friends on the Committee, but it is most unjust, and certainly far from encouraging to those nurses who joined before there appeared any chance of active service and glory. Many of the members' friends feel as I do, and no one can say it is just.

Yours truly,

"FIRST COME FIRST SERVED."

[We sympathise with our correspondent, in so far as she contends that the senior members of the Army Reserve should have been sent out first to the seat of war, if they are, as she says, "well qualified in every way." But we know of several nurses accepted as members of the Reserve whose characteristics, and in some cases lack of the highest qualifications, should have disqualified them from membership, and the lives and care of our soldiers are the first consideration at the moment, so that we advocate the selection of the best women and most efficient nurses obtainable, whether they belong to the Reserve or not. The whole trouble arises from the fact that the Committee of the Army Nursing Reserve failed to grasp the necessity for the establishment of a high standard and efficient curriculum of special training for all nurses selected for membership, and all sorts and conditions of nurses were permitted to join without any special test of fitness for Army nursing. It is only one more proof of the necessity for an efficient governmental department with, a trained nurse as superintendent,

in connection with the British Army Nursing Service, and this is a reform for which we intend to work.—Ed.]

THE RISKS IN DISTRICT NURSING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to read your remarks upon the risks of district nursing. A conscientious nurse is often placed in positions of great difficulty in the course of her work, and even if she only undertakes one branch of work, even then she is not free from them. For instance, a nurse may be undertaking midwifery work only, but suppose she visits a patient one morning and finds in the room a child with an infectious disease, a not at all uncommon occurrence—for the artizan classes are most careless with regard to infection—of course she cannot go on to her other patients. If she belongs to an institution she goes back and reports the facts, and another nurse is sent to take up her work while she disinfects. But if she is working on her own account, and is single handed, what is she to do? Is she safe if she completely disinfects, and has entirely clean clothes; or, ought she to isolate? Her patients in any case must be attended to. Is she responsible for providing them with a nurse under the circumstances, and consequently must she pay one to do her work, or what is to happen?

Yours faithfully, QUERY.

A DISCLAIMER.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Will you allow me to call your attention to a paragraph which appeared in your issue of the 11th inst. In the course of your comments, with most of which I cordially agree, you express the opinion that a Roman Catholic is bound to proselytise, and that Roman Catholics consider everyone who does not belong to their church, must be lost eternally. Permit me as a born Roman Catholic to assure you that a woman in the position of Matron would be advised to avoid most carefully all interference with the religious opinions of those under her charge, and also that Catholics are not allowed to say or even think that anybody is eternally lost. This is a fact, though I am well aware that the misconception to which you give expression is very common.—I am, Madam, sincerely yours,

November 30th. 1891.

ELLEN CAHILL.

[We thank our correspondent for her letter which is the more valuable because of the wide-spread opinion—that proselytism is a matter of conscience with Roman Catholics—to which we alluded in the paragraphs in question.—Ed.]

WANTED A PIANO.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Would it be asking too much of you to request that you will be so kind as to make it known through the NURSING RECORD that we should be very grateful indeed for a piano for the patients here. Ever such an old one would be acceptable, as also would old books and periodicals. With apologies for troubling you.—I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

Basford Sanatorium. C. HICKMOTT, Matron.

[We should advise our correspondent to send a copy of her letter to the *Nottinghamshire Weekly Guardian*.—Ed.]

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