

trained, have, through personal influence, been promoted over the heads of the more highly trained graduate nurses. This is unjust, and I hope may be brought to the notice of the medical department of the War Office. As you say, it is a strong argument for the adoption of a professional standard in the Army Nursing Department. The fact that Mr. Fripp is merely an assistant-surgeon at Guy's, without beds, and has never been connected in any way with the training and superintendence of nurses, should also be a strong argument against the methods employed in the selection of the nursing staff of the Yeomanry Hospital.

Yours truly,

A SISTER IN A LONDON HOSPITAL.

HOSPITAL CABINS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—No more interesting subject has come under discussion in your correspondence columns, than that of Hospital Cabins, and if anyone can convince the public of their importance, surely the able Miss Mary Kingsley can do so. I am a great traveller, and the suffering of invalids at sea has often come under my observation. Even in the short trip across the Atlantic a hospital cabin would often be of untold convenience, both to the sick and their unfortunate cabin companions. I well remember one voyage to the States in which a poor girl just recovering from typhoid fever was placed in the berth above me. She was too weak in rough weather to scramble up or down, and only having a brother on board, he, of course, wanted to visit her, and did so, although I was *hors de combat* in the berth below. This poor girl could not take the food prepared, and the ship's doctor being somewhat devoid of a knowledge of dietetics, did not appear to realise the necessity for invalid diet in this case. Her sad condition coming to the knowledge of an American gentleman, he insisted upon a special chicken broth, after his own receipt, being prepared by the cook, and provided her with this delicacy daily, which was the only food she kept down for days. There was no trained nurse on board, as there should be on every boat, just as there is a medical officer. Seasickness is always a subject for the amusement of the vulgar. But it causes intense suffering in many cases, which, if properly nursed, might be immensely relieved. I have myself remained forty-eight hours in an almost collapsed condition because I could neither obtain digestible food, a hot-water bottle, or any other nursing care. If Miss Kingsley will head a deputation to the Directors of the great shipping firms, reforms might be accomplished.

Yours truly, A SUFFERER.

MIDWIFERY EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Having been intimately acquainted with this subject for 28 years, and closely and practically so for the last 13 years, I should like to make a few remarks, which, however, owing to my official position, must be anonymous. There is no doubt that women have always attended and will always attend the bulk of confinements amongst the poor. About 500,000 such cases are attended annually by women in England and Wales, and require alone 15,000 mid-

wives. Every reasonable person is convinced that some system of education, examination, and license of midwives is necessary. The work of the Obstetrical Society of London in this direction must some day be lauded and applauded by every one, as it already is by most. Humanity requires that all women attending labours should have a certain minimum amount of knowledge, and the Obstetrical Society has set itself a task, which it has carried out most successfully, and it will continue to examine, till the State steps in and takes over the work. The Obstetrical Society would I think be willing to demand evidence of general nursing education from its candidates, but in insisting on this the number of candidates would be greatly diminished, and at present the number of competent midwives is small compared with the number we believe to be required, moreover the higher the standard and the more generally competent the midwife, the worse would it be for the General Practitioners who are now so opposed to any recognition of midwives. A woman with the L.O.S. license to attend midwifery is now represented by a respectable and intelligent woman, who has had certain experience of practical midwifery, and three months' reading and education, and has passed an exam. in midwifery only. A trained nurse holding the L.O.S. would represent much more, and in my opinion might prove a serious opponent in some districts to the local medical practitioner, moreover, in my opinion, the licensed midwife, if guarded by penal clauses against trenching beyond her boundary, would not be any detriment to any self-reliant medical practitioner. Anyhow the days of the dangerous unqualified Gamp are past, and the midwife or midwifery nurse will rise in spite of opposition, together with workers in all other branches of industry. If it is proved that candidates for Matrons of Lying-in Hospitals, workhouses, etc., are preferred if they are trained nurses holding the L.O.S., competition will ensure that a sufficient supply will be forthcoming. When midwives are obliged to take out an annual license in the district where they are practising, the officer issuing the licenses will be in touch with each midwife, know their whereabouts and what they are doing, and this in itself will be a sufficient check against evil practices.

M. D.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

Workhouse Infirmary, Newton Abbot,
S. Devon, Feb. 12th, 1900.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—May I be allowed to correct an error which appeared in last month's NURSING RECORD in regard to the nurses at the above institution not being allowed to laugh after eight p.m. Either the reporters or the one who made the statement must be labouring under a misapprehension, as anyone passing our sitting-room after that hour could well affirm. The sitting-room is situated near the wards, consequently we do not feel at liberty to sing or do many things which we might do, were we beyond the hearing of our patients. In regard to the "misery and monotony," any nurse describing her life thus, wherever she might be, or whatever her surroundings, would simply condemn herself. I sincerely pity the nurse who has to go outside her work to find her happiness. The nurse whose heart is in her work will ever find her chief joy in ministering to those about her, even though from a professional

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