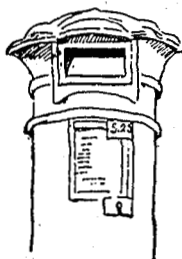


Letters to the Editor.

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

A RETROSPECT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your retrospect of the past year, which I am glad to see has now become an annual feature in the NURSING RECORD, is most interesting. The progress made in nursing organisation during the year seems to me very remarkable, and must be a great pleasure to you who have worked so long and so laboriously to attain professional co-operation amongst nurses. It is surely a happy augury that we should be entering upon a new century inspired by the desire for such union, not only in this country but in the United States, in Canada, at the antipodes in Australia, and last, but not least, in a European country; for, in Europe, hampered by the traditions of bygone ages, and with conservatism bred in our bones, any attempt at progress seems beset by many more difficulties than is the case in the newer countries where expansion and forward movements are natural and, indeed, inevitable. Is it too much to hope that the close of the century will see the nurses of the world a strong and united body, having in common a uniform curriculum of training, systems of preliminary and post-graduate education, certification by a central examining board and State registration? I do not think so. I am fain to confess I should like to re-visit the world a hundred years hence and see for myself.

Yours faithfully,
A PROFESSIONAL PERSON.

MALE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—There is, I believe, in the minds of many people in this country a doubt as to whether men can ever be trained to make efficient nurses, and I fancy most matrons of our training schools would be averse to accepting men as probationers. There are, of course, many difficulties in the way of training male nurses in our general hospitals, and I must confess that I do not think I should personally be in favour of it, unless a school were organised after the pattern of the Mills Training School; but the article you published last week by a graduate of that school must convince the unprejudiced that some men, at least, are keen and enthusiastic about their work, that they are capable of a high degree of training, and, moreover, that they have a strong feeling of loyalty to their Superintendent—all most excellent characteristics. One great difficulty, in my mind, with regard to devoting all the male wards in a hospital to the training of men as nurses is that the training ground of the women nurses would be so circumscribed. In point of fact, it would be reduced to that attainable in a women's hospital, and in this country we have never recognised such a nursing education as

sufficient to qualify a nurse as thoroughly trained. I wonder how this difficulty is met at Bellevue Hospital? If the women nurses are trained in the female wards how can they undertake the nursing of male patients after graduation, and, if they cannot do this, can they be considered thoroughly trained nurses? I should very much like to see this point discussed. It seems to me that the proper training ground for male nurses in this country at any rate is in our military hospitals, as you, Madam, have on various occasions, much advocated. Is it not nearly time that the orderly should be abolished and his place taken by a well-qualified male nurse? Surely our Army Sisters ought not to be expected to be satisfied with assistance which no Sister in a civil hospital would accept for a moment, and which undoubtedly minimises the effect of their own skilled work. Surely our soldiers have a right to the care of at least as efficient nurses as those provided for paupers. The War Office seems to be on its trial just now, and there is a very general feeling that reforms are necessary. One hopes that when this war is over, the nation will insist upon its organisation being brought up to date, and that, with other obsolete things, our present system of Army nursing, may be swept away and one more in accordance with modern ideas substituted for it.

Yours very truly,
ON THE WATCH.

ARMY NURSING.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that Mrs. Hampton Robb in her most able and interesting presidential address at the annual meeting of the Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States, said that "at the present time there is no modern system of Army Nursing in any country." Of course this is true, but how does it strike British nurses, and the British public? Ought we not to be up and doing? Is America always to be ahead of us in nursing organization? Time was when we were not content to take the second place.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
"A BRITISH NURSE."

NURSES A LA MODE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I most cordially endorse the remarks made by "Certificated Nurse" in last week's NURSING RECORD. There are, to my knowledge, many well-trained nurses who would most gladly start off for South Africa at very short notice to nurse our sick and wounded soldiers. Why, then, should these brave men be subjected to amateur nursing when, perhaps, skilled nursing may make all the difference of life or death to them? It is preposterous, and ought not to be allowed.

Yours sincerely,
AN OLD PUPIL.

[The point raised by our correspondent is an important one. We do not think that any untrained persons have been sent out by the War Office to nurse our soldiers, but it is undoubtedly legitimate to object to unqualified women being allowed to undertake nursing duties, when they go out at their own charges. Amateur doctors would not be tolerated. Why amateur nurses?—ED.]

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