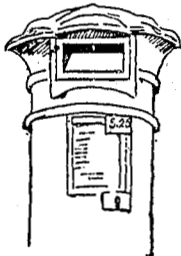


Letters to the Editor.

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.

"THE TRUE INWARDNESS."

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—It may interest your readers to know that the anti Registration of Nurses gang, worked by Sir Henry Burdett, to oppose, and if possible wreck, the Royal British Nurses Association for the ten years it maintained its self-respect, are raging furiously against him now that he and Mr. Fardon have shown their hand, and the former has "ratted" on his former policy and gone over to the enemy. But can any action upon the part of Sir Henry Burdett and his "faithful henchman," Mr. Fardon, prove more conclusively the hollow mockery and unprincipled conduct of the affairs of the R.B.N.A. than that the man who for years vilified the Association in his weekly paper and besmirched and intimidated its members week by week, should be brought forward by the Med. Hon. Secretary as its *friend*! The whole thing is too contemptible for words, and the impudent assumption of Sir Henry Burdett of "initiating" the present system of nursing, when the reform was begun by our great women when this "nursing prodigy" was imbibing his bottle, is well exposed by you in our faithful RECORD. But Mr. Fardon's conduct is a lesson we nurses must not depreciate or forget, and proves the danger of having the *paid medical officer of an impecunious general hospital* in power in an association of nurses whose professional interests are not identical with the Balance-Sheet of the Middlesex Hospital, in which payment of his salary appears! When Mr. Fardon betrayed the professional interests of the nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and voted with Sir Henry Burdett in 1896 for the following resolution:—

"THAT A LEGAL SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION OF NURSES IS INEXPEDIENT IN PRINCIPLE, AND INJURIOUS TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF NURSES, AND OF DOUBTFUL PUBLIC BENEFIT,"

his excuse was that he was instructed so to vote by the Committee of the Middlesex Hospital, whose interests were presumably best served in keeping in with those who distribute Hospital Sunday Funds etc. And in this connection I would ask, why does a small and by no means well-supported institution like the Middlesex Hospital get £1,000 a year from the Prince of Wales Fund (which *was* initiated by Sir Henry Burdett) and hospitals of better repute get nothing from this source? And why does Mr. Fardon continue year after year to sit upon a Registration Board for Nurses and take their money to support the R.B.N.A., if he *believes* "that legal representation is inexpedient in principle and injurious to the best interests of nurses"? And how much longer are nurses going to permit themselves to be exploited for the financial

and social advancement of the professional philanthropist? Time will show.

Yours truly,
"A STATE REGISTRATIONIST"

[Several other letters will appear next week on this subject.]

THE INFANT NURSING PRODIGY.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I think Sir Henry Burdett when he was entertaining the Royal British Nurses' Association meeting with his "interesting reminiscences," must have forgotten that St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand, was founded in 1848 for the purpose of training young women as nurses. Therefore, unless he assisted in the founding of St. John's House, he could not have assisted in the "initiation of training nurses" at all. Of course, the omission might have been from characteristic modesty.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
AN OLD ST. JOHN'S NURSE.

MALARIA.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am pleased to see that the importance of good nursing in cases of malarial fever is being brought forward in your columns, for I am quite sure that the necessity for it cannot be over-estimated, and that many lives are lost for lack of it. While the subject of malaria is under discussion, may I draw attention to a fruitful source of harm in connection with it. I mean the indiscriminate dosing of themselves in which amateurs indulge. When they proceed to the tropics it seems to be the "right thing" for them to supply themselves, or for some well-meaning but ill-advised friend to supply them, with a medicine chest stocked with every conceivable drug—as a rule the most inexperienced traveller has the biggest medicine chest—and from this, like a child with a new toy, they dose themselves, and any friends who have sufficient confidence in them to submit to their prescription of drugs, the names of which they hardly know, and of the properties of which they are in most blissful ignorance. Huge doses of quinine, aperients wholesale, and anti-pyrim are prescribed with the greatest confidence and lightheartedness. I myself have seen a person who "felt as if he were going to have fever," take a bottle of sulphate of quinine in his right hand, fill the palm of his left hand with a goodly heap, and consume it with no reference to such needless trifles as weights and measures. I can assure you lest I should be supposed to be exaggerating, or quoting an extreme case, that this practice is by no means uncommon. The pity of it all is that when such persons get really ill they are very run down, owing to all this indiscriminate dosing, and so their chance of recovery is greatly lessened, and, secondly, they do not respond to drugs in the same way as those who abstain from them. I must own I should like to see most medicine chests dropped over board on the way out.

I am, Dear Madam,
Faithfully yours,
COMMON SENSE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)