

nursing. Such persons are, in our opinion, best obtained through the ordinary domestic agencies. Further, if the unattached nurses of Bradford desire to co-operate why do they not do so under the superintendence of an experienced trained nurse? If medical men assume the personal as well as the professional control of nurses they will naturally have to run the gauntlet of public and professional criticism.—ED]

QUACK NURSING IN BRADFORD.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It does seem most extraordinary in these days, when for years nursing has been considered a profession, and when it is recognised that such skilled work needs years of training and experience to fit women to tend the sick, especially in private houses, that medical men can be found so devoid of any appreciation of the importance of nursing in the treatment of the sick, as to make such a proposal as that suggested by Mr. Horrocks and Dr. Metcalfe of Bradford, and many trained nurses in Bradford are grateful to you for your forcible indictment of their scheme in the *NURSING RECORD*. The suggestion to open a Registry composed of trained nurses and untrained sick helps (save the mark), would be, if carried out, a public danger, and should be stopped by the combined action of the doctors in the town, having as Mr. Whiteside Hime evidently has, some appreciation of their responsibility to their patients. In the old days when the Royal British Nurses Association had the definite policy before it of State Registration of Trained Nurses before it *forsook itself at the instigation of its arch enemy*, the nurses in Bradford hoped much from its efforts, and our chief society put itself in touch with the R.B.N.A., but since it has supported Mr. Fardon and the officers who have voted *against legal status for trained nurses* we have ceased to hope for any help in that direction. This belittling of nursing by medical men has become very infectious, and the present move in Bradford may, in my humble opinion, be traced directly to the unprofessional management of the R.B.N.A.

Mr. Hime points out that the attitude of the medical promoters of this quack nursing scheme is a most "discreditable proceeding," and "is in fact a public advertisement." Here, again, we observe a similarity between its methods and those of the most active medicos on the R.B.N.A., the majority of whom were never heard of until advertised in its unprofessional organ, and many of whom no doubt through its influence have been brought into contact with Royalty and other social advantages.

We read columns in the medical papers of the trials by the General Medical Council of poor practitioners for "conduct infamous in a professional sense." Surely it is time that august body took up the question of medical men touting for practice through nurses and their associations, and their methods of advertising themselves through the "official organs." The question is a very scandalous one and should be severely discouraged by medical authorities. Anyway, it is this objectionable and unprofessional meddling with nurses, which is at the bottom of half the mischief in the nursing world. You will be pleased to hear that your article, dealt with in our local press, has caused a flutter in the

dovecots of the Bradford Medico Ethical Society and will no doubt have useful results.—Yours truly,

"A BRADFORD NURSE."
(late R. B. N. A.)

TESTIMONIALS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I do not see how we nurses are to do without testimonials—most certificates say so little and are given to all pupils who pass an easy exam., and in this hospital, although there are places awarded in the pass list, this honour does not appear on the certificate subsequently given to all the nurses who pass. And it is impossible to apply for a Matronship without testimonials from doctors and Matrons with any hope of success, and it is very difficult to make certificates more comprehensive in expression as suggested. It seems a very difficult question, as there is no doubt all testimonials are not to be relied on. I have heard a Matron say, "Oh, I never look at testimonials. I will write to your Matron in confidence." But Committees do not understand that medical men are not *nurses* as well as medical practitioners. *Nursing*, as we women understand it nowadays, is altogether a new vocation, and one might as well argue that a medical man was a professed cook because he knows something of chemistry, as that he is a *trained nurse* because he has studied anatomy and physiology. Nursing is a *domestic science*, and will therefore largely remain the province of women. Meanwhile, as your correspondent from the front says, "we muddle on."—I am, Dear Madam,

Yours truly, CERTIFICATED.

MADAM,—In a well organised training school, testimonials should not be permitted to be given to nurses by any but the Matron and the Honorary Medical Staff. The juniors are apt to lay it on too thick.

Yours, "STAFF NURSE."

AN AVERTED DANGER.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest and profound thankfulness the Foreign Letter in the *NURSING RECORD* last week, detailing the attempt in Canada to place the organisation and control of the nursing profession, not in their relation to the sick, but with regard to nursing education and discipline, in the hands of the medical profession. It is interesting as a proof that history repeats itself, for we are painfully aware of the capture of the control of our nurses' association by medical men, and, having regard to the disastrous results of this procedure, one cannot be too thankful that the attempt in Canada has failed, and that the medical man who had charge of it in the House of Commons was so impressed with the objections to it which were expressed by the leading Matrons in the Dominion that he withdrew the measure. It is most gratifying to learn also that the outcome of this ill-advised attempt at organisation will be to bring good out of evil, and that substantial support has been promised by hospital authorities in Canada to the formation of a nurses' association, to include the Lady Superintendents of all the hospitals, and the alumnæ of the training schools on a self-governing basis. I shall in common, I am sure, with many nurses in this country watch the development of nursing organisation in Canada.—Yours very truly, SENTINEL.

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