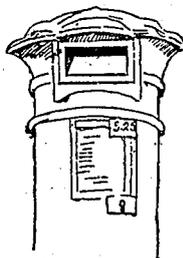


Letters to the Editor.

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.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

North London or
University College Hospital,
Gower Street, London, W.C.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—With occasional exceptions it has been the custom of the Committee of this hospital to organise annually a Festival Dinner in aid of the funds of the charity.

After mature consideration the committee have, owing to the great calls upon the public in connection with the war and famine funds, decided to abandon the idea of having a dinner this year. The Committee trust that they will nevertheless receive a full measure of support from those ladies and gentlemen who have on so many occasions testified their sympathy with the objects of this charity and their approval of the work done by the committee.

We therefore invite all such friends of the Hospital to forward the donations and subscriptions which they would have generously given had the usual Festival Dinner taken place.

We also desire to take this opportunity of earnestly appealing to the public at large for contributions towards the maintenance of this Charity.

This appeal is made to residents in the country and suburbs, as well as to the London public, as a very large number of the poor living in the suburban districts of London and in the country derive the benefit of treatment at the Hospital.

During the past year, 2,708 in-patients and 37,562 out-patients and casualties, have been treated within the walls of the Hospital.

The Committee unfortunately commenced this year with a debt of £6,599. This can be easily understood when it is remembered that the reliable income of the Charity from all sources is only about £8,000, whereas the expenditure is nearly £18,000 per annum. When the new and larger Hospital is completed, it is estimated that to keep the whole building in proper working order about £22,000 per annum will be required from voluntary sources. Unless there is some improvement in the amount of support at present accorded the Committee will be much crippled in carrying on the work of the Hospital.

We therefore earnestly solicit Contributions from the Charitable Public for the maintenance of the Hospital, either in the form of Annual Subscriptions or Donations, and ask that the enclosed slip may be filled up and returned to the Secretary at the Hospital.

REAY,
President of University College.

BEDFORD,
President of Hospital.
MONKSWELL,
Treasurer of Hospital.
HENRY LUCAS,
Chairman of Hospital Committee.
WALTER BAILY,
Vice-Chairman of Hospital Committee.

Donations and Subscriptions may be sent to the above, to Messrs. Coutts and Co., 59 Strand, W.C., or to Mr. Newton H. Nixon, Secretary of the Hospital.

QUACK NURSING IN BRADFORD.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—If not asking too much, may I be permitted to trespass again upon your kindness, and ask you to insert another letter on the question of quack nursing in Bradford. I read the letter signed by Dr. Metcalfe and Mr. Horrocks with much interest in your last issue, but, like yourself, remain unconvinced of the wisdom of their scheme for nursing the poor in the town. From the letter of these gentlemen we learn that it was at a meeting of the Bradford Medico-Ethical Society that a paper was read proposing the registration at a Central Bureau of the names (nothing is said as to qualifications) of the unattached trained nurses in the town, which suggestion might have been usefully adopted, provided that the nurses registered were carefully selected, and their professional qualifications and character guaranteed. These precautions, however, do not appear to have been advocated by the members of the Medico-Ethical Society. Then we learn that at the meeting "some of the members urged the desirability of the inclusion of sick helps for those who require their services." Now, what is a Sick Help? In plain, unvarnished English, a char-woman or scrubber, who, in addition to cleaning work, at which she may or may not be efficient, does not hesitate to give "a 'elping and in the nursing"! And if such women are cleanly, sober, and sympathetic, no doubt they are more useful in the homes of the poor, than when they do not possess these virtues.

But "scrub ladies" as our American cousins call the "char" are not nurses any more than "dockers" are doctors, and the very fact of suggesting that trained nurses and charwomen, or as the Bradford Medico-Ethical Society euphoniously call them sick helps, should be lumped together as attendants upon the sick, shows a most deplorable lack of appreciation of the *professional status* of the trained nurse, upon the part of the medical men who could suggest and support such a scheme.

It is not surprising that many certificated and efficiently trained nurses in Bradford are naturally indignant at this depreciation of their skilled work, and that doctors—who of all men should sympathise with the professional aspirations of nurses and their desire to attain and maintain a high standard of professional efficiency—should now constantly belittle them in the opinion of the public by classing them with char-women, because it is useless to argue that if both classes of workers are supplied from the same Bureau, under the names of Sick Nurses or Sick Helps, that the community will not class us them affiliated workers.

It is to be sincerely hoped that this scheme may be

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