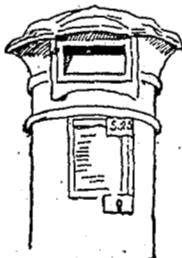


Letters to the Editor.

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.

STATE REGISTRATION FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I feel so strongly on the subject of State Registration for nurses that I would gladly do something practical towards bringing about an end, which most people are now ready to admit is the only remedy for the false position we find ourselves in.

I should be exceedingly sorry to force registration on anyone who holds the opinion that it is undesirable or unnecessary. I am quite ready to admit that registration will not make anyone a good nurse or a good woman, who has no claim by training or character to be such. But surely if a considerable number of trained nurses wish for registration why should they not be allowed to have it? And what injury does the unregistered nurse expect will result to her by State Registration if her clients are satisfied with her qualifications?

I can remember the same opposition to every advance in nursing work. We are all aware that Miss Nightingale was voted an intolerable nuisance by "officialdom" when she not only urged but insisted on reforms in hospital administration, both civil and military; we know that the first educated women who offered themselves for training in our large hospitals received a scant welcome; we know that the system of a three years' course of training and the granting of certificates were also looked upon as *fads* by ultra conservatives not so long ago; and yet see what has happened? Take up any paper which is a medium for advertisement and see how many advertisements for nurses (not to mention Matrons and Sisters) require that the applicant be a gentlewoman and hold a three years' certificate from a recognised school.

The same result will, I feel sure, eventually reward our efforts for State Registration though we have been disappointed many times. Still I hope we have the courage of our convictions and that we will go on until we have succeeded in attaining the object we have in view. I would suggest then, that circulars should be sent to the Matrons of Training Schools throughout the country, asking their co-operation in this matter, and sending petitions to be signed by them and their staff, for State Registration. Just at present there is a strong feeling in most minds, that if some definite line of action in this direction were taken, we should have public sympathy with us, and that expression could thus be given to the wishes of a majority of our fellow nurses, who as individuals cannot come forward and speak for themselves.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

HENRIETTA C. POOLE,
Matron.

Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary.

Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum District,
Devon's Road,
Bromley,

Middlesex, E.,

25th July, 1900.

OPEN AIR TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Herewith I send for your information a copy of a letter I am forwarding this day to each Board of Guardians within the Metropolitan area, with a view to a Conference being held to consider the advisability or otherwise of a hospital being established for the reception of Consumptive patients for open air treatment. The letter will give you the particulars of the question so far as the Managers are concerned.

Yours faithfully

R. J. FOSKETT,

Clerk.

LETTER TO BOARDS OF GUARDIANS.

DEAR SIR,—

OPEN-AIR TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

For some considerable time the Board of Management have had under consideration the subject of the open-air treatment of phthisis with a view to the establishment of a hospital for the special care of such cases.

The managers are of opinion that by the proper treatment of the disease in its early stages much good would result to the patient; in many cases probably a permanent cure would be effected, and they are convinced that this would be best achieved and maintained by the open-air method now being advocated in so many quarters.

In the Poplar and Stepney District Sick Asylum on a recent occasion there were 65 phthisical cases, many of which would, in the early stages of the disease, probably have derived much benefit, if not actual cure, could they have had the advantage of the open-air treatment of their ailment when in its incipient stage.

After a conference with the representatives of the Boards of Guardians and medical officers' and clerks of the unions comprising the district, the question has taken a more practical form, and has resulted in a deputation of the managers waiting on the Local Government Board on the subject.

In receiving the deputation, the Local Government Board expressed its sympathy with the managers in their desire to provide the class of accommodation referred to, but objected to the managers taking individual action in the matter, the question, in the Board's opinion, having a metropolitan rather than a local character; and, entertaining this view, the Board intimated that provision, if made at all, should be for the metropolis as a whole, and be under the management and control of a metropolitan authority.

The Board also suggested that if the managers felt disposed to pursue the matter further, a conference of representatives of each Poor Law authority in the metropolis should be invited to meet and discuss the subject, and in the event of such conference considering the provision of the proposed accommodation desirable, it should address the Local Government Board on the subject, and thus give the views of the metropolis generally on the subject.

The managers will feel obliged if you will kindly bring the matter under the notice of your Board with a view to a conference being held to discuss the subject.

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