

and every nurse *did*. One might just as well say, that in forming an Alumnæ Association, we should never have the Superintendent of Nurses President, because so many look to her for cases, etc., but I have never felt in my own Alumnæ that our freedom of speech or thought has been hindered in *any way* by our superintendent being in the chair.

It has been my privilege to meet a great many "Army Nurses," but I am thankful to say, not the kind who feel a "romantic admiration" for our President, but those who feel that they have in her a *friend*, to whom they can go or write to, in joy or in sorrow, and always be *sure* of good advice, comfort and sympathy.

Of course, we *all* agree with your correspondent's personal opinion of the Doctor. I trust that you may have space for these few remarks in your valuable paper, for I am anxious that our English sisters should know *just how* we as nurses feel towards the Chief of the Army Corps; and just *why* we choose her as President of our "Spanish-American War Society."

AN EX-CHIEF NURSE.

[The letter to which "An Ex-Chief Nurse" alludes appeared in our issue of October 6th, and the fact that it was written by the "Special Correspondent" of the NURSING RECORD is sufficient guarantee that the writer is a trained nurse of wide experience and high professional aspirations. The question of the wisdom of appointing as President of a Nurses' Organization a man or woman who is *not a trained nurse*, is, we imagine, the real crux at issue between our correspondents. Both correspondents vie with each other in their admiration of Dr. Anita McGee, apart from the official relations which, as Assistant Medical Superintendent of Army Nurses, she bears towards the profession of nursing as a whole. We realise that the whole contention of the Superintendents of Training Schools, who, during the past eighteen months have worked so whole heartedly for Army Nursing reform in the States, is that a *trained nurse*, and not a *medical practitioner*, should hold the position of supreme authority in the nursing department of the War Office at Washington in co-operation with the Surgeon-General of the Army Medical Department. The Superintendents advocate this as a *fundamental principle* of efficient organization. This point in Army Nursing Organization is still before the country (America) and sooner or later trained nurses will be compelled to advocate or oppose it, and we imagine it was in this connection that "Our Special Correspondent" wrote in relation to the appointment of a medical woman to the Presidency of the Spanish-American War Nurses in the following paragraph:

"The Army Nurses elected Dr. McGee their President for the ensuing year. This was perhaps natural, but one may well question the soundness of the principle involved in the official and disciplinary head of the Army Service being the elected head of their voluntary organization. One wonders how much independence of expression and of action the nurses will have in the management of their Order—they look to Dr. McGee for their positions in the Army, and can they but be somewhat constrained always to defer to and follow, and never to oppose her in their organization?" In plain words, when another Bill is before Congress pleading for a Trained Nurse Superintendent as disciplinary head of the

American Army Nursing Service instead of the present arrangement by which a medical practitioner superintends the Nursing department—what will be the position and action of the Spanish-American War Nurses? When a vital question involving the status of their profession is at stake, they must cast their influence for one side or the other. But perhaps we anticipate events.

We cannot agree that the argument of "An Ex-Chief Nurse," in which she says "one might just as well say that in forming an Alumnæ Association we should never have the Superintendent of Nurses President, because so many look to her for cases, etc.," is pertinent to the question; it might be so if she had suggested electing a medical practitioner to the Presidency of an Alumnæ Association. The whole question at issue is one of professional discipline, and in no way *personal*, but from our experience of nurses all the world over it will take many years to inculcate in them as a body an appreciable measure of professional responsibility. In fact, we doubt if women *en masse* can rise without the lever of their Parliamentary enfranchisement, which alone can procure for them economic independence.—ED.]

THE INFECTIOUS PRIVATE NURSE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It may interest you to know that the very important question of efficiently disinfecting district nurses, has received due attention by those responsible for the accommodation of the fourteen nurses who are to live at the New Jubilee Central Home for District nurses at Liverpool. This Home is most comfortably, one might say luxuriously arranged, with single prettily furnished bed-rooms, and fine public apartments, as the nurses have an eight hour day, divided into morning and evening hours on duty, it is most wise to provide a restful and spacious home for them to use when off duty.

But my point is that in addition to all the home comforts for the nurses, the protection of the public has also been considered. There is a little suite of three rooms where a nurse must disinfect before she is permitted to mix with her fellow nurses. If a nurse has on duty come in contact with an infectious case, she enters by a side door set apart for the purpose, and here a very thorough process of disinfection is prescribed, after which she can emerge cleansed and reclothed, and *safe*.

Another admirable feature in the new Home is the hospital at the top of the building, where sick nurses can be attended to, and in cases of fever isolated. In former days the members of the staff who unfortunately contracted infectious disease were obliged to go to a fever hospital. Every care has been taken for complete isolation, and the hospital is fitted with every necessary appliance, with linen store complete, and has a telephone to the basement, and window through which infected garments may be ejected without coming in contact with the residents downstairs. If the London Borough Councils take up the question of providing disinfected Homes for Nurses there is much in our Liverpool Home which could be used as a model. What a far-reaching and complicated affair is the science of nursing in these days!

Yours truly,

A LIVERPOOL READER.

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