

We will communicate with Miss Rogers on this matter, we feel sure she will appreciate the sympathy of her colleagues.—ED.]

**"MEDICAL MIDDLEMEN."**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—Your remarks anent the Croydon Controversy, in respect of the position of Matrons, where a Medical Superintendent is in evidence, will be appreciated by many Matrons.

In most fever hospitals, as well as in Poor Law Infirmaries, this "Medical Middleman," as you so aptly put it, is a veritable thorn in one's side.

There is no doubt that, when one is fortunate enough to find a place, where the medical officer is not invested with such absolute authority, the Matron's work will be found more satisfactory and productive of better results, than where she is handicapped by her suggestions and reports reaching the Committee (if they ever do) second hand.

I have had experience in fever hospitals, under both aspects; at present, in a colliery district, where the people from whom we get our patients are of a most undesirable class; being a joint hospital, it is out of the way, and most inconvenient, but with all these objections, I am glad to remain here, simply because, I am the recognized head of the establishment, am in direct communication with the Committee, attend all ordinary meetings of the Board, and Finance, and Contract Committee Meetings. I appreciate very highly these privileges, and, I am sure, my duties are performed all the better, and my loyalty to the Committee is the greater, for the confidence they extend towards me.

I have heard of one fever hospital, where the M.O.H. for the borough, acting as Medical Superintendent (non-resident), has duplicate keys for all the cupboards, etc., in the administrative block, has luncheon daily at the hospital, and takes upon himself to reprimand the cook if his potatoes are not to his liking; of course, when things reach such a pitch, the Matron must be very much to blame to tolerate it.

In general hospitals, the Matron is always the responsible head of the house, I can, therefore, never understand why the same system cannot be adopted with advantage in Poor Law Infirmaries and Fever Hospitals.

If all Matrons would make a stand, as Miss Julian has done, against being placed in such absurd and false positions, such a state of affairs would cease to exist.

I enclose my card and am

Yours faithfully,

A FEVER HOSPITAL MATRON.

**A UNIFORM STANDARD.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—By this mail I am sending you one or two views of our hospital, also you will find in this packet a copy of our rules for the teaching and examining of nurses, with a list of the questions and the result of the examination for the past year.

In addition to the written papers, the nurses have to pass on the whole of their work and conduct for the three years, also a practical examination in their work before the Medical Superintendent, and at least one of the examiners and myself. I set all nursing questions, and they have a thorough examination in all the most

important details in connection with practical nursing.

Will you kindly tell me how our teaching and examination compare with the best training schools at home. I think it would be a great help and would tend to bring about a uniform system of training if all training schools who give certificates sent you a list of lectures, questions for examination, and results for the year. I am sure you would gladly devote a page to this matter, and they might be published in the order in which they reach you. To compare the systems and standards would be extremely valuable.

I know that there are several training schools where there is no standard of training, nurses get lectures or not as it happens to suit the various officers responsible for the management of the hospital, while the examinations are equally uncertain. But they are given a certificate, so no one thinks it matters.

I always look forward to our copy of the NURSING RECORD, and trust you will have the happy Christmas and good New Year you so well deserve.

Yours truly,

J. H. MILNE,

Lady Superintendent.

Launceston Hospital,  
Tasmania.

[During the past year we have, by the courtesy of the superintendents, been able to publish some useful details of the organisation of King's College Hospital Training School for Nurses, and an outline of the curriculum in vogue at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A. These details have been most useful to less experienced superintendents—and were highly appreciated. We shall deal with the valuable enclosures sent us by the Lady Superintendent of the Launceston Hospital at an early date, and think her suggestion of comparing systems, with details of teaching and examinations in this journal might prove very educational, but to be thoroughly useful we should like to print the answers of those nurses who take the highest place in the pass list, as well as the questions set, one could thus gather from the answers the results of systems of teaching. It is interesting to note from the rules and regulations for the Launceston General Hospital Training School that "General efficiency during the whole course of training, and the ability displayed in the practical works of the wards, shall be taken into consideration in awarding the candidates their positions," and that "those nurses who pass with 75 per cent. of the maximum number of marks in each subject shall be considered to pass with 1st-class honours," and that "nurses who pass with 1st-class honours, and have obtained the maximum number of marks for conduct, shall be entitled to wear the Badge of the Training School," and "shall be considered eligible to be placed in the more responsible positions on the permanent staff." Such arrangements must arouse healthy competition amongst the pupils, and be conducive to a high standard of work and conduct. The plan of allowing pupils who have gone through their hospital course, and have passed the prescribed examination, with distinction to graduate with honours is good, as a difference is thereby made between those whose work entitles them to a high place and those who have only just succeeded in satisfying the examiners. It is so good for us to have something to live up to.—ED.]

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