

of their sex. To such women may well be committed the selection and training of probationer-nurses, and with loyal co-operation from the medical officers and committees with their Matron, the nurses of the new century would be the finest in the world.

As a profession, we owe an immense debt of gratitude to the energy and courage of the Editor of the NURSING RECORD, who, with remarkable talent and unwearied zeal, has led the way in the arduous struggle of the nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, in which we have been engaged for the past fifteen years or more. This journal has often aroused the apathetic public of our Islands to bestir itself, and to endeavour to right the wrong in several instances; and many helpless sufferers have had reason to thank its pages for the relief of their burdens.

If only the nurses of our great empire would rally round the standard so bravely lifted for them, it would be well-nigh impossible for ill-intentioned persons to exploit them for gain, and to deprive them of their just rights as professional women. It is earnestly to be hoped that this new century may see a recognized College of Nursing in full working order, and should this be the case, it will be due to the strenuous and unwearied labours of the Editor of the NURSING RECORD.

Thanking you, dear Madam, for all you have accomplished for the nursing profession in the past, and wishing you all success and prosperity in the future,

I remain, yours gratefully,

FLORENCE L. HAY FORBES.

"An Ex-Matron."

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Gardner's article in the NURSING RECORD of the 22nd December, 1900, has greatly interested me.

Since nursing has become a recognised and honourable profession for women, many other kinds of employment are now open to them, in which, as in all skilled labour, more or less education is required to attain proficiency, and this is specially true of nursing.

Few things demand longer, more sustained, continuous and intelligent effort than does this profession as we understand it at the beginning of this new century, and, I believe, no other work develops a woman, in all things womanly, to the same extent as this. If she is to be worthy of her name, her sympathies, patience, endurance, tact, presence of mind, courage, readiness in emergency, observation, gentleness and forbearance will all find exercise. And for the development of all these abstract qualities, the three years' training (or four years, as in some), which

is the rule in the Metropolitan Hospitals, is neither too long or too rigorous.

To the earnest nurse the work teems with interest, even the drudgery being done enthusiastically, and the natural buoyancy, and good spirits, observable in nurses generally are sufficient to give the lie to their life being one of "unmitigated slavery."

The tendency of the age, in this country at least, seems to be towards sentimentalism, as in our treatment of cowardly ruffians; and if this spirit gets into our hospitals, I question whether the nurses of the future will be as well able to "Stand the Test" as those who were reared under more rigorous circumstances. Those who are morally and physically strong, will only grow stronger under the necessary discipline and arduous duties now associated with a hospital nurse's training, and which call forth all her powers both physical and mental.

But having "Stood the Test" of her three or four years' training, and left her Alma Mater with a well-signed certificate, how is the nurse of to-day to be distinguished from the "hospital failures" and the unsuitable probationers whose careers in hospital terminated within a year, and who now masquerade as fully equipped, much uniformed nurses?

Unless she be associated with one or other of the few Nursing Societies which guarantee each member to hold a three years' certificate of a good training school, she has no distinction. Not until we get "State Registration of Nurses" will this anomaly be remedied. This, Madam, I rejoice to know, is a scheme very near your heart.

Sincerely yours,

AMANDA JONES, R.N.S.

We are glad to find that this "test question," has aroused much interest, and hope next week to publish letters from Miss H. Poole, of the Blackburn Infirmary, and Miss Todd, of the National Sanatorium for Consumption, Bournemouth. We feel sure the views of Sisters and nurses will be as valuable as those of the Matrons, and will be read by the latter with appreciation. We hope, therefore, the example set by Sister A. Jones, of the R.N.S., may encourage other nurses to send their views.

"Poor Law Nursing Reform."

AN important Conference of Yorkshire Poor Law representatives was held at Leeds on Tuesday, at which the general uniform standard of training and examination for Workhouse nurses in the country was ably discussed. The report of this meeting has reached us too late this week to give it the attention it deserves, we shall therefore devote adequate space to the matter in our next issue.

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