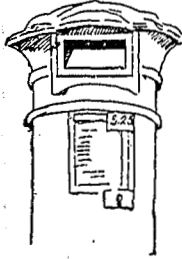


## Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &amp;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.*

## BATTLEDÔRE AND SHUTTLECOCK.

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

DEAR MADAM,—You are to be congratulated on having exposed the conduct of Mr. Fardon and his colleagues in their dealings over the "Midwives List" with the Medical Defence Union, and the correspondence from the respective medical secretaries of these two societies in this week's *British Medical Journal*, is indeed pretty reading. How has Mr. Fardon the audacity to attempt to deny the promise of the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. to suppress the title of "Midwife" in the forthcoming Roll? Why, in nearly every issue of the *Nurses' Journal* this year, the new advertisement describing the Midwives as "Midwifery Nurses" appears, and presumably this official statement has not appeared in the "official organ" without Mr. Fardon's knowledge, as he is in supreme power in the office, and practically of the *Nurses' Journal*! The whole thing is most discreditable, and if the nurse members have not the courage to oppose the Hon. Officers, weak and irresolute as they are, we midwives have no desire to be classed with a body of women so futile. We are not "Midwifery Nurses," any way.

Yours truly,  
"A MANCHESTER MIDWIFE."

[We have referred to this matter at length in Nursing Politics.—Ed.]

## OPERATION CASES IN ASYLUMS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—While thoroughly agreeing with your comments on the case of the patient who died in the Portsmouth Asylum, it seems to me that one or two points which you did not touch upon are worthy of notice. Why should the Guardians subscribe £100 a year to the Portsmouth Hospital on condition that the authorities receive any cases sent there from the Asylum? If the cases are suitable for admission, surely the hospital should receive them without payment of this fee, as it would do if they went in direct from their own homes, and (2) if the patients are insane ought they to be received into a general hospital? Scarcely.

The moral of the deplorable death in the Portsmouth Asylum is of course (1) that there should be at least one experienced operator on the medical staff of asylums, and (2) that the nurses in the wards should be nurses in fact as well as in name, that is to say, they should not only be trained attendants on the insane, but they should have been trained in the wards of a general hospital. Every Sister or Charge Nurse in an asylum should without doubt be a certificated nurse, and if this were the case the authorities would

have no difficulty in securing the services of well-trained nurses who would be glad to take out a post graduate course in mental nursing. As things are at present, not only are competent nurses not encouraged to work in asylums, but their services are even refused. I know of at least one asylum, to which thoroughly competent nurses applied for admission, in order that they might qualify themselves for taking mental cases as private nurses, and they were refused on the ground that they were trained nurses, and that the authorities preferred women who had had no previous training. I venture to think that if the Charge Nurses in asylums were, as they should be, certificated nurses, the authorities would not take this view, but would form a more correct estimate of the value of the services of women who have had experience in general nursing. If the heads of institutions are so blind to the welfare of the patients in their charge, in the interests of these poor creatures cannot some pressure be brought to bear upon them from the outside? The conservatism of men is past belief, and they seldom see the necessity for improvements of methods in vogue when their great grand-fathers were alive, but in matters of life and death—and good nursing really means this—they should be compelled to listen to reason. That at least is the view of

Yours obediently,  
A MERE NURSE.

## THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with great interest the suggestions of the Committee of Enquiry into the management of the National Hospital which you published last week.

One thing I must say which came out astounded me—namely, that the bulk of the soiled draw-sheets are washed only once a week, and that by one woman in the laundry of the hospital itself, and that there is no proper place for the storage of such sheets, but all, except the worst, accumulate for the week in the lavatories or bath-rooms.

Further, in this hospital of 200 beds imagine the work which devolves upon one woman in washing all these sheets. No wonder they are returned imperfectly cleaned, damp, and rough. And has it occurred to no one, if there is a shortage of draw-sheets, that if they were laundered twice a week instead of once the number available for use would at once be doubled?

A PRACTICAL WOMAN.

## TO MEET A NEED.

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

DEAR EDITOR,—So many nurses would be glad to know of a dress-maker.

Miss Cherry Johnson, 97, Walerton Road, St. Peter's Park, W., makes nurses' washing dresses for three shillings each, she fetches the material, comes to you to fit, and brings the work home. Of course her fare has to be paid. She is a good dressmaker, does alterations, and goes out to ladies' houses for 2s. 6d. a day (her fare must be paid). Would you be kind enough to mention this in the *NURSING RECORD*, as I am so often asked by Nurses for a reliable dress-maker.

Yours truly, H. C. Sadleir, R.N.S.  
12, Bulstrode Street, W.  
July 2nd.

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