

Doctor being three miles away, the only means of communication being by road. As there was a large County Hospital within one hour's journey by rail I do not think my experience will prove exceptional.

A WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY NURSE.

Sept. 24th, 1901.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Dr. Toogood, in the admirable letter which appeared in your columns last week, put his finger on the raw spot when he said that, "Workhouse Masters and Matrons, by their training, are quite unfitted to have control of the sick wards, and so long as they are recruited from the ranks of porters and labour mistresses so long will they be incapable of wisely governing persons of a better social position, and of sympathetically ministering to the wants of the sick." I am sure that this inability of the powers that be to understand the nursing management of sick wards, and the needs of the patients, has much to do with the dislike of nurses to take up Poor Law nursing, and the earnest advice of those who have tried it against entering this department of work. I personally can say that friends of my own, holding responsible positions, have said to me, "Advise every one you know never to take up Poor Law nursing." "I stay in the Poor Law because I have a good appointment, and I do not like giving up work which I have undertaken, but I should never advise anyone else to enter the Poor Law."

Now, what is the reason of this advice? In both the above instances the speakers were excellent nurses, holding well paid and apparently comfortable appointments. They are such typical instances of the well nigh universal dictum, that it is apparent there must be some radical defect in poor law nursing organisation.

I think in the light of Dr. Toogood's letter the reason is not far to seek. Those of us who work in general hospitals have only to imagine for a moment the promotion of even the most enlightened porter to a position of absolute authority over the nursing staff, and then to consider how many of us would consent to work under him, or would find the routine of our highly specialized department going smoothly under his control.

At the same time I am entirely of Dr. Toogood's opinion that those who accept office under present conditions are bound to respect lawful orders.

I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,
THREE YEARS' CERTIFICATE.

A PRACTICAL POINT.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with great interest "Daily Tub's" letter in your issue of last week, which is practical and helpful. At the same time I do not think she quite appreciates the extreme difficulties in the way of the poor with regard to maintaining the standard of cleanliness rightly held essential by those in better circumstances. Think of their crowded houses, often whole families in a room, of their lack of "tubs" for even the weekly bath, of the fact that every drop of water has to be boiled, and that coal is a costly item, of the worn-out boots through which the street slush penetrates, of their constant struggle with poverty and all the sordidness which is implied in the word. I cannot wonder, though I regret, that feet are not, under these circumstances, always kept as clean as faces. I honour those who achieve such cleanliness in spite of the greatest difficulties.

I am, dear Madam, Yours truly,
CLEANLINESS.

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