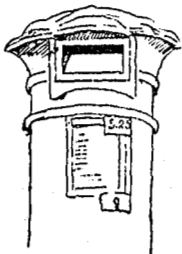


## Letters to the Editor.

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.*

## THE SOCIETY FOR THE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to support all that Mrs. Groves wrote last week in reference to the new departure, *re* State Registration of Nurses. We nurses only want a straight and definite lead on the matter, and I am sure hundreds will be only too anxious to join, and work for it. We have hoped against hope that the Royal British Nurses' Association would fulfil its duty, and press forward this fundamental reform, for the principle of which it has taken so many thousands of pounds from nurses. But so long as Mr. Fardon and his supporters are alone nominated to govern this Association, so long any hope of justice for nurse-members must be abandoned. At the same time many of us are fully convinced that professional matters have gone from bad to worse since 1897, and that it is our duty to come out on this State Registration question. May I be permitted to suggest that as nurses have no votes, that we should interest the general public and members of Parliament in our just cause, as the midwives have done. The nurses' interests are those of the public. It only wants instruction as to the true state of the case, and I feel sure it would not tolerate for a day the impostures to which it is subjected by the present lack of system in the nursing world. It is to be hoped that the medical profession will hesitate before it supports Mr. Fardon's intimidation policy, as it is quite certain that neither Parliament nor the public will sympathise with it when plainly exposed. The legal proceedings initiated by Drs. Bezly Thorne and Fardon against the nurse members of the R. B. N. A. from 1893—97 might be summarised with advantage and widely distributed. Nothing could prove more distinctly the terrorism to which we were subjected before we were deprived of all power in our own Association by the Bye-Laws drawn up by these medical officers.

Yours truly, G. H.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with pleasure your editorial remarks on the Compulsory Registration of Nurses in last week's RECORD, and Dr. Havell's plea for the same. I have not the least doubt that many medical men are of the same opinion as Dr. Havell. They realize their responsibilities to their patients in this matter, and see the necessity for the organization, and professional control of the *omnium gatherum* now known as trained nurses. The broader minded of them also recognize that as a matter of justice to thoroughly qualified nurses the trained should be

differentiated from the untrained. They know that the medical profession would not for one moment tolerate being placed on a par with the unqualified, the quack, and the fraudulent practitioner and they see no reason why nurses should be subjected to the same indignity. I most heartily wish success to the new Society, it has claims on nurses, medical practitioners, and the public alike, for all have a stake in the competency of the trained nurse. The nurse because she competes in the open market with the untrained, who frequently bring her profession, and herself into disrepute, and thus lower her in public estimation, the medical practitioner because his professional reputation suffers when his patients are nursed by the careless and ignorant, and the public because their own lives and those of their dearest relatives may at any time depend upon skilful nursing. The Society therefore appears to me to merit support from all these classes.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFICATED NURSE.

## TECHNICAL SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses seems to be an admirable organization. Would it not be possible to have something of the same kind in London? There are many of us who feel we should like to supplement the somewhat scrappy and desultory instruction we get in many training schools, and I feel sure that lectures given under the authority of a central body would be well attended.

Faithfully yours,

SPECIAL PRO.

## LINEN FOR INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was interested in the supply of linen given by you for a Small-pox Hospital of six beds, as I am allowed less for double that number of beds, and am considered very extravagant because I cannot make it enough. Nothing is more extravagant in the long run than a short supply of ward linen, it is always in use or in the wash, and is dished out in no time.

Yours truly,

ISOLATION HOSPITAL MATRON.

## COTTAGE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with interest your article on "Cottage Hospital Administration" last week. I wish it could be read by all Committees of Cottage Hospitals. So few have any idea of what is demanded of the modern nurse. They are mostly composed of philanthropic ladies and gentlemen anxious to do their duty, and if they realized the refinement of cruelty to which a solitary nurse in charge of a Cottage Hospital is subjected they would not require her to be Matron, Housekeeper, Day Nurse, Night Nurse, Probationer, and often House Surgeon in one. I agree with you that some blame must be meted out to nurses for accepting such posts.

Faithfully yours,

COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

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