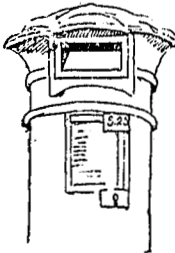


**Letters to the Editor.****NOTES, QUERIES. &c.**

*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.*

**A QUESTION OF JUSTICE.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—Would you kindly tell me if a lady enters a hospital for three years' training, paying entrance fee first year, second and third year to receive salary, loses three or four weeks owing to a bicycle accident, is it right that part of her first quarter's salary should be stopped, the month she was off duty being added to the first year, making it thirteen months in hospital before the well-earned salary began? Trusting you will excuse my troubling you,

Believe me, yours truly,

A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

[We are of opinion that had the nurse been disabled by an accident or illness incurred in the service of the institution that the payment of her salary should have dated from the end of the first year, but, as it apparently happened while she was taking her own pleasure we think the hospital is justified in beginning to pay the salary from the time that the nurse was ready for work. Ed.]

**MARKING INK FOR MEAT JUICE.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—When will nurses as a profession develop a sense of the responsibility of the work with which they are entrusted, and the grave results which may occur from their carelessness? We hear of disinfectants being given in mistake for medicines, of patients scalded and injured by hot water bottles, now a case is reported which would be almost inconceivable if it were not attested by the medical officer of the hospital, in which doses of marking ink were administered to two patients, instead of meat juice! One nurse put marking ink in a meat juice bottle, surely a reprehensible action, another placed it in the cupboard, and a third, when directed to give meat juice to two patients, poured out the marking ink, added the requisite amount of water and unquestioningly administered it. Happily, though one of the patients became prostrate, both eventually survived. But what confidence can the public have in nurses if cases of such gross carelessness are constantly reported by the public press? Of the two nurses the one who used the meat juice bottle for the marking ink is the less excusable, yet surely one expects a nurse to have the faculty of observation developed, and to have some common sense, and is there any grown woman possessed of these qualities who would not know the difference between marking ink and meat juice? The public pay, often with difficulty, the fees asked by trained nurses, they surely have a right to expect that they shall not be subjected to such risks as those enumerated above, but shall have some guarantee that the nurses supplied to them are qualified for their

work, and personally suited for it. If they are entrusted with the care of the sick, surely they should be possessed of some sense of responsibility. Who is at fault? Are the training schools at the root of the trouble, or who is to blame? One thing is certain. The public regard nurses with increasing disfavour, and avoid employing them if they can do without them. I am inclined to think that what is needed is some central authority which shall keep the training schools up to the mark. At present each hospital, however inefficient, ranks with the best.

I am, dear Madam, faithfully yours,  
DISSATISFIED.

**AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I heartily endorse the opinion of "A Graduate," in last week's NURSING RECORD, and say in addition that I consider that much of the responsibility for the overworking of nurses by the public rests on the authorities of co-operative nursing societies who fix sixteen hours out of twenty-four as a nurse's time on duty, by stating on the circular they send to each patient that the nurse is expected to have eight hours a day away from her patient for sleep and exercise. The majority of the public seeing this, especially those having no preconceived ideas on the subject, naturally think this must be a reasonable limit and act accordingly, some of the most inconsiderate among them even think they may safely attempt to exact eighteen or twenty hours' duty for a few days. Imagine a good nurse on duty for successive days, sometimes weeks, for sixteen hours daily at an acute case—the most arduous and exhausting work a woman can do—and getting only eight hours for sleep, exercise, her toilet duties, and often her chief meal of the day. Can we wonder that hundreds of nurses are constantly, and often permanently, disabled by illness, and that few of the best class of nurses, after a short experience of it, will do private nursing?

Consequently the field is open to half-trained and unscrupulous women. Apart from other hard conditions, the life of a private nurse in this respect alone outrages the simplest laws of health. If the Nurses' Societies would fix twelve hours as a working day, and leave to the nurse's judgment the question of remaining on duty sixteen hours or longer when really necessary, the public might realise that nurses are subject to the same physical laws as the rest of human beings.

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,  
A GRADUATE NURSE.

**NURSING PROGRESS IN JAPAN.**

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with deep interest the article by Miss Linda Richards in last week's NURSING RECORD on Nursing Progress in Japan. It is most inspiring to know that Japanese nurses are so progressive. One even wonders if they will obtain legal registration before we have it in this country. Another point also occurs to one—as America went to England for help and counsel, and Japan went to America, will China in the course of time go to Japan and learn how to nurse her sick folk? Time will show. It will be interesting to watch and see.

Faithfully yours,  
PROGRESS.

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