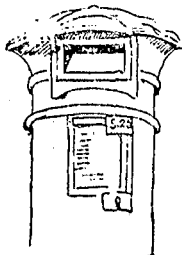


**Letters to the Editor.**

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 STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.***To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

Dear Madam,—There is one aspect of the burning question of Nurses' Registration which I, as a graduate of an opposing school, think has not received sufficient consideration and that is the industrial aspect of the question. I have carefully read much on the question, although told that it is "disloyal" to my own school even to read the heresies in the RECORD and *American Journal of Nursing*, but if one dives down deep enough one finds at the very root of the opposition to legal status for trained nurses the instinctive opposition of the employer for any sort of co-operation leading to self-government and powers of defence for the employed. This is natural—the instinct stronger than any other in the natural law being that of self-preservation.

I know that many excellent hospital committee men—progressive doctors, and even good Matrons—will repudiate the idea that, in opposing co-operation and protective legislation for nurses, they are actuated by any such ignoble motive; but the fact remains that many persons of these classes are bitterly antagonistic to any form of self-government for nurses, and ungenerous and illiberal action cannot and never does spring from generous and noble motives.

Even the medical members of the R.B.N.A., when once the founders had won the Charter, have spent all their time, and all the nurses' subscriptions in keeping them in subjection, so that the nurses themselves dare not express an opinion in their own Association on any professional, as apart from "charity," questions—at least if they do take action neither their letters nor opinions are ever permitted to appear in their official organ.

Now I am writing this to urge that the nurses' just cause should be placed quietly and convincingly before the public, and to express my pleasure that so eminent a woman as Miss Louisa Stevenson of Edinburgh has come forward as the champion of State Registration for Nurses. Such women have more influence with others, especially with our legislators, than any Matron or nurse can have—and being totally disinterested and free, can work untrammelled according to the dictates of conscience, which so few of us can afford to do.

Wishing every success to the meeting on Friday, and to the Society for State Registration to be inaugurated on that day, with sincere regret that I am unable to be present.

I remain,

Yours truly,  
A MATRON MEMBER.

**NURSING UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.***To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—We trained nurses, working in country workhouses, are anxiously awaiting the Report of the Departmental Committee, appointed by the President of the Local Government Board, to inquire into the nursing system of these institutions. I have been a superintendent nurse—and think the position impossible. I should much like to see trained Matrons in workhouses with sisters and nurses under them. A superintendent nurse under untrained Masters and Matrons cannot possibly maintain discipline or get the patients properly nursed—if she is strict the nurses are encouraged by the lay officers to oppose her, and if she is lax "peace" may be maintained, but the quality of the nursing suffers. I vote for trained Matrons, though I should pity them.—Yours, &c.,

LATELY SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM.—I was very glad to see in the NURSING RECORD that nurses are beginning to feel their need of a more liberal general education, because this is one step more towards professional organization. No body of workers has yet been recognized as a profession which has not required some evidence of general education of its members, and rightly so. We nurses have not laid sufficient stress on this point so far. Even now it is not uncommon to find on the forms which applicants for probationers' posts are required to fill in, the question "Can you read and write well?" and even at the present day there are nurses in London Hospitals who can do neither one nor the other. Surely we ought to require a higher educational standard than this. The Medical profession requires evidence of general education, and the time has come when nursing candidates should be required either to produce certificates from an educational body, such as the pass certificate of the Senior Cambridge Local Examination or the second class certificate awarded by the College of Preceptors. Failing these they should be required to pass an examination in general knowledge before being allowed to enter a hospital. We have realized that a general education in nursing must precede that in special branches. We must now go back a step further and require evidence of education in general subjects before admitting them to the special study of nursing. In no other way shall we ever attain to the best standard of nursing education.

Yours faithfully,

HONOUR CERTIFICATE.

**THE BABY'S BATH.***To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I was very pleased to note the suggestion of your correspondent last week that some demonstrations should be given to nurses on the subject of bathing infants. I received my training in a hospital where there were no children's wards. The young children were nursed in the women's wards, and the boys over seven in the men's. I have often felt my ignorance in the care of children, especially of infants, and should be very glad of an opportunity of acquiring knowledge with regard to it.

Yours truly,

THREE YEARS' CERTIFICATE.

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