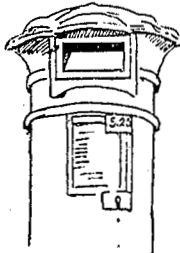


Letters to the Editor.

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.

THE NURSING OF EYE DISEASES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Permit me to thank you for arranging to give us some expert information about the Nursing of Eye Diseases. I feel sure Mr. Harold Grimsdale's articles will be most helpful. In numbers of hospitals the nurses never get any teaching whatever in the Care and Treatment of the Eye, and I find it a good plan to have our probationers study the special lectures which have appeared in the RECORD, and examine them in what they have learned every month. This we have done with all Dr. Bedford Fenwick's articles in the past, and found them most practical. In small and also in special hospitals it is seldom possible to get the medical staff to teach probationers the theory of nursing diseases in which they are not specially interested. Yours very truly,

A COUNTRY MATRON.

We are surprised when interviewing certificated nurses for private work, how very few have been taught, or have acquired knowledge in ophthalmic nursing. Ophthalmic surgeons we believe find it difficult to obtain skilled nurses for the care of eye cases, and usually have to teach those private nurses who attend their patients the greater part of their work.—Ed.]

CO-EDUCATION IN MEDICINE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—A paragraph has been widely circulated by the Press during the past fortnight that the Women's Medical School at Chicago is about to close its doors; that it has been in existence some thirty-two years, and has been "run" at an annual loss of 5,000 dollars, the moral pointed being the natural inaptitude of women for scientific and medical work. Now this inference is altogether wrong and unjust. The real reason this Women's Medical School is not a success is because American women, practical creatures as they are, prefer to work in the co-educational medical schools, that is to say, schools at which male and female students pursue their studies in common.

That up-to-date medical paper *The Medical Press and Circular* remarks on the question: "We suspect that the same preference would be manifested in this country if only it could find expression, but so far the doors of the general hospitals have been jealously closed to female students, and there is no present prospect of a relaxation of the taboo."

Co-education, equal rights that is in medical education, should be the aim of women in this country. It is quite certain that they will never rank professionally with men, or be able to earn equal fees for work done, until all the advantages open to male, are shared by the female students. This our practical American cousins thoroughly realise; and to judge by the type

of medical woman turned out (one has only to name Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson of Chicago) they are justified in their claim. Yours truly,

MEDICAL WOMAN.

FOR WHICH MANY THANKS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a woman-worker only and not as a trained nurse, I should like to offer you my grateful thanks for the great and good work you have done for my sex. It is not only the special class of workers, viz., nurses and all those women connected with medicine, to whom your paper has already proved invaluable, but you have been a good helper, a grand inspirer, and an excellent guide to the higher estimation of women and their work. As long as we have your journal [and you] to exercise its healthy influence amongst us, we shall be unable to realise its great worth, for it is no less true of one thing than of all—that "we never miss the water till the well runs dry." Nevertheless, we can, to a great extent, understand and calculate the benefits while they still remain with us, and for this reason I have taken my pen, to-day, to tell you of our gratitude; I say "our," because I am so sure I am right in feeling that I am far from being alone in thanking you.

Women are so chained down by the heavy links of dependence that they are almost unable of themselves to rise above their positions. Competition is so keen and sweating is still so rife among us that it is impossible to see our way out of our difficulty. We hear a great deal of discussion going on about women emigrating, but there only seems one class of work which is not overrun with applicants, and that is domestic service. It is not every girl and woman that is either fitted, or has the taste, for such labour, and especially among the educated classes, who are more inclined to use their heads than their hands, for bringing in the daily bread. What then is to be done with those who are anxious to remain in their Native Land, and who, at the same time do not wish to work in a market of underpaid and overcrowded workers. Is there no means of realising more co-operation amongst the women of our nation, and so sweeping away this accursed sweating of the poor by the rich. Can we not all bind ourselves in one common bond of perfect unity, and by our own efforts raise the standard or worth? Perhaps scarcity of time and money has the greater share in answering these questions, but determination also holds a part.

As you are continually telling us, women must stand up for their own sex, and until they do so with all their strength and will they can never succeed in their efforts to raise themselves. Many have not the courage of their own opinions, we are told, this I think is sometimes a mistaken idea. It is often the nature of women to silently bear their troubles, they have been brought up in this way for generations and, again, they are at times more anxious to please and do for others and forget their own interests. Few women are fond of aiming at a big banking account or care about working hard to gain a comfortable sum to rest upon in the future, the generality of them have never been brought up to understand they must eventually become their own bread winners.

Yours with great hopes,
LYDIA CAMPION.

206, Portsdown Road, Maida Vale, W.

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