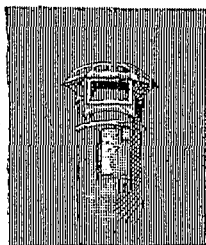


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(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.

Communications, &c. not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I appreciate the *Nursing Record* so much that I wish every Nurse and friend of Nurses could see it regularly. I have often wished that I could afford to post copies to others.—Yours truly, R. E. E.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I have read with deep interest the able and very matter-of-fact remarks of the Hon. Sec. to the Rural Nursing Association on "Rural Nursing," to which I shall be very glad if you will allow me briefly to reply.

Twenty years have elapsed since my thoughts were first allured to the cherished subject of Village Nursing, and it has in the meantime forced itself into many of my thoughtful hours. And although I am fully prepared to endorse this writer's sentiments in the main, my experience of Nurses and nursing doth not warrant me in confirming the remark, "that gentlewomen trained as Nurses" do, as a rule, "prefer the interests of Hospital life," &c. Neither do I agree with the suggestions of Mrs. Dundas, who seems to think it possible to "find a hitherto unknown happiness in preparing with the self-devotion and self-sacrifice necessary to take up the (so called) holy work of alleviating pain and suffering," that is, if practical rural nursing be the ideal. For the unvarnished fact still remains, and cannot safely be set aside—viz., that although these nineteenth century days are days of progress and reform, Might is again and again to be found masquerading in the guise of Right, at whose august entrance into the arena Mrs. Dundas' lofty ideal vanisheth forthwith, giving place to the "glowing" reality.

Again, my long and thoroughly practical experience and minute analysis and investigation of this subject as it stands to-day, has led me to (rightly or wrongly) one and a not unnatural conclusion, I think—viz., to discard as unseaworthy the not uncommon idea that any one woman, single handed, ought to be able to steer through the dense fogs of every kind which still envelope many of those rural spots. To expect any woman to "bury" herself and then to rise equal to the emergencies of the whole locality, seems to me preposterous in the highest degree, even were her "mental and moral" characteristics everything that could be desired. "Who are so blind as those who won't see?" It should be distinctly understood that there is a limit

to what one can do, and it is better to do a little well than a great deal in a superficial and careless way.

Furthermore, I am prepared to maintain that the situation of the Rural Nurse of to-day is, as a rule, a peculiarly difficult and trying one, hedged in on every side, in view of which I would venture to claim for her personally a larger share of sympathy and consideration than has hitherto fallen to her lot. Indeed, Sir, I have known those grand theoretical rural schemes to fail, and I have also known cases where the cause of this failure has been meekly attributed to "something wrong in the Nurse's training," and "her profession is at fault." Not very flattering compliments, truly!

In conclusion, let me say to you, Mr. Editor, in case you should doubt the veracity of my remarks, "Go straightway into those villages and country places, and cautiously don the 'harness' for a time and give the work a fair and an impartial trial all round, and then (not before) judge for yourself." To any would-be Rural Nurse let me very cordially commend a perusal of my last letter; for, if she "looks" before she "leaps" into those appointments, this might spare her many a headache afterwards. And to the promoters of such schemes I cannot refrain from saying, "Please do not, in your intense eagerness to serve those poor people, stealthily take the last drop of the 'milk of human kindness' from the Rural Nurse! 'Is not every labourer worthy of his hire?' Although her previous training hath done much, I can assure you that it hath not developed her into a mere machine. Give unto her a fair field and fair play, and just see if she won't serve you well."

Now, Sir, I feel confident you will agree with me that "Village Nursing hath more than two sides." It is true that difficulties lie before the promoters of those philanthropic enterprises, but difficulties are mountains to climb, on the top of which to plant the flag of SUCCESS.

Apologising for trespassing so much on your space.—I am, Sir, most faithfully yours,

SISTER VERONICA.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications with and without enclosures received from Miss Annie Foster, Miss A. Ward; *Jeyes, Limited*; Mrs. Young, Miss Ingham, Miss A. Sibly, M. H. R. Gomme, Mrs. St. A. Horton, Miss Snowden, Miss Lewis, Miss A. Large, Miss E. L. Symonds, Miss F. I. James, "Justice," Miss C. Johnstone, Miss Helen Foggo-Thomson, Miss Kate Robinson; Post-card, no name given, 37, St. Michael's Street, Folkestone; Miss Sidney Browne, Miss Alice Pope, Mrs. W. H. Whittaker, New York Academy of Medicine.

Justice.—See next week's issue.

Enquirer.—St. George's Hospital is considered a good school for Nurses. Apply to the Matron.

NURSING RECORD BENEVOLENT FUND.—We gratefully acknowledge the sum of five shillings from Miss M. Cadbury.

MRS. DUYCK FUND.—Mrs. Duyck wishes to thank Richard Barrington, Esq., for two votes for the next election at the British Home for Incurables.

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