

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;c.)

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

Sir,—In answering the correspondent of the *Norwood Review*, "One who has had much experience in Nursing," I am very sorry that she has taken such a violent prejudice against our profession through one (according to her account) bad specimen. May I ask if the Nurse was on duty twenty-four hours (which is often the case) when she required six meals a day? A Nurse must have food if she cannot get sleep. Perhaps your correspondent has not heard of patients being killed by the so-called kindness of their "loved ones." I think if your correspondent is ever ill and is nursed by an outsider, or, as she so kindly terms us, "a hireling," she will find instead of "agitating patients of highly sensitive and nervous organisation," that to have a Nurse who knows what to do and when to do it, is much more soothing than to have her relatives, who are nervous and worried by the affairs of the household, and who really irritate the patient with their would-be kindness. I also would like to correct the idea that Nurses only take an interest in their patients from a pecuniary standpoint. I think now it is a well known fact that Nurses are more badly paid than domestic servants, and not only that but have more anxiety and responsibility, I might say that many work for the love of tending the sick and helping the helpless.—Yours, &c.,

ONE WHO KNOWS.

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

Sir,—I venture to suggest that the Nurse alluded to in the letter written to the *Norwood Review*, and re-issued in last week's *Nursing Record*, may have been a Trained Nurse misrepresented. The writer was evidently prejudiced against the Nurse before her arrival. If the Nurse was as bad as she was made out to be, it would certainly have been gain instead of loss to pay the week's fee and dismiss her as soon as she proved incapable, instead of waiting to the end of the week.

I have been a private Nurse for four years, and though a hireling, I certainly claim to be an interested and sympathising one. I have met many kind, grateful people, and others the exact reverse; these are sometimes sisters and cousins who are "born Nurses," and are prejudiced against the ordinary Trained Nurse, and worry her more than her patient does; any little mistake on the part of the Nurse is exaggerated, and an unscrupulous person will even sometimes invent in order to injure one who has superseded her. For instance, a lady went so far as to accuse me before a Doctor and a patient of doing that which she had really done herself, and had the Doctor not known us both, it might have been a serious affair for me.

Unfortunately, all that is said in the letter may be true, but it is not proved. We do not hear the Nurse's side; consequently, I for one will not believe such uncharitable remarks against a professional sister.—I am, Sir, yours,

PORTIA.

P.S.—Since I wrote the above I have been sent to a case of apoplexy. I remain on duty seventeen hours out of twenty-four. During my day of seventeen

hours I have three meals off cold fat mutton, with tea; in addition I provide myself with two other meals, so now I sympathise more with the Nurse who required six meals a day.

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

Sir,—Nurses have been asked what they will gain by joining the British Nurses' Association. I should like to state what I have lost by not joining it. I applied to join as soon as I heard of the Association in October last, but was declined as a Member because I had only been nursing for two years. My sister, who got her certificate in August, was elected, and paid half-a-crown. Now, what have I lost? I went to the meeting in November, and not being a Member had of course to pay a shilling, to the *Conversazione* in December and paid five shillings, to the meetings in January, February, March, April and May, five shillings more; each time with my sister, who paid nothing. In hard cash, then, my sister has paid half-a-crown and I eleven shillings for exactly the same advantages. I calculate I have lost eight shillings and sixpence in hard cash; and now my sister is going to have a splendid day at Cambridge, and I cannot go at all, besides the honour of being a Member of the Association, and which I cannot gain till next October. I know many who feel with me. We Nurses are not such fools as some people seem to think. We know extremely well what we gain by becoming Members of the B.N.A., or two thousand four hundred of us would not have joined in such a short time.—Yours regretfully,

NOT A MEMBER B.N.A.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Housewife*.—Copies of the "Maxims" you mention may be obtained from the National Health Society, 44, Berners Street, W., for ninepence a dozen, or ten shillings and sixpence a thousand. Have your cisterns periodically cleaned, fixed dates being as far as possible assigned for the purpose.

*Matron*.—Robinson and Son, 55, Fann Street, Aldersgate, E.C., supply two qualities; for the second material we should recommend W. Bailey and Son, Oxford Street.

*Nurse Mary*.—Write to Miss Wood, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, or call before four p.m.

*Nurse X*.—Try Wallis and Co., Holborn Viaduct.

*Sister Lucy*.—Apply to Miss East, Lady Superintendent, National Hospital, Queen Square, the best Hospital for the purpose in England.

*Ward Nurse*.—As we cannot employ the unscrupulous and intensely malicious tactics of the paper mentioned, we should advise you to treat with contempt the virulent abuse it contains weekly concerning a body of gentlewomen—who do not condescend to read it—belonging to the Association of which you are wisely a Member. The ladies you mention have gained the confidence of the public by many years of conscientious and successful work in our best nursed Hospitals, and we do not believe they will turn aside from the duty to Nurses and to the public which they have set themselves to perform until their task is accomplished. Certainly they are not likely to be intimidated by any action from the quarter in question.

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