



## 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.*

#### ACCEPTED IF NOT DEFINED.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—It was with extreme interest that I read the list of names of the many Matrons, nurses, and other representative persons interested in nursing who signed the petition against the proposed certification of one year's probationers as qualified nurses by the Local Government Board. It proves that in reality the standard of training consistently urged by the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has been accepted if not defined, and that in the estimation of the nursing world the certification of one year's probationers belongs to the past. This is most hopeful.

I shall be surprised if the President of the Local Government Board authorises the appointment of Qualified Nurses, under the conditions proposed, in the face of the strong opposition evoked. This once more demonstrates that, if it is united, the nursing profession can make itself heard, and its weight felt in regard to professional questions.

As in the case of the Matrons' Council and the War Office, when representative nurses get the chance of a hearing their views receive attention. What stands most in the way of our professional advance is, in my opinion, the want of unity on the part of those who desire to lead our profession. It does not inspire great confidence in the rank and file of nurses; while those who know that so long as we are divided we are a neglectable quantity, and who do not desire to see us a recognised profession, look on well pleased.

To illustrate my meaning. Being a constant reader of your valuable journal, I believe, of course, heart and soul in the principle of State Registration. But my Matron says Registration is all right, but the "time has not come." Will it ever come, unless we insist upon having it? Then, again, others say Registration is bad because you cannot register character. Well, what profession does register character? None. But all take pains to ensure that only reputable persons shall be placed on their professional registers. Do the persons who argue thus wish us to believe that it is only in nurses that character is of importance—in medical practitioners it does not come in? Apparently so, or the Medical Register must be a pernicious publication. As a lady at the State Registration meeting at the Women's Institute pertinently pointed out, you don't, because you find a woman's name on the Register of Trained Teachers, assume that in all respects she is a suitable person to be entrusted with the care of your children; you make inquiries about that if you are wise; but you do take it as a guarantee that she knows her business as a teacher. Why cannot the Matrons, to whom we look

for a lead, meet and, in the face of the danger to nurses and the public from the present disorganisation in our ranks, decide upon a common ground of action? We nurses would have more respect for them if they did. I am glad that on one point at least they have shown that they are capable of coming out solid for progress.

Yours faithfully,  
ALL FOR REGISTRATION.

#### INFECTION BY VERMIN.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I read with amazement the account of the case related by you in your last issue, in which the Judge said he did not believe there was any want of care on the part of nurses who allowed a child to get vermin in its head while in a fever hospital and sent it home in this condition. One is tempted to say with Sam Weller, "If that is the law, then the law's a h'ass."

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
AMAZED.

#### THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—Many Army nurses feel in sympathy with "Army Nursing Service Reserve," and agree that the Order of the Royal Red Cross can no longer be considered a nursing Order—indeed, it is not the only thing the South African War has depreciated in value. Self-respecting women can hardly believe the statement that Society members of the Order masqueraded in men's clothes, such as kilts, and doublet and hose, at the Countess Howe's dance. Surely there must be some mistake. If true, it is a disgrace to our once honoured Order of the R.R.C.

Yours truly,  
COLONIAL NURSING SISTER.

#### A PROFESSIONAL POINT.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—Would you be kind enough to give me the benefit of your advice in the following matter?

A short time ago a lady wrote and asked me (I am an obstetric nurse) if I would go to her house to remove, cleanse, and replace a pessary. I was too busy to go, as it happened, but I should feel much obliged if you would kindly tell me if the whole or what part of these duties are within the province of a nurse.

Hoping you will not think me a very great trouble,  
I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
DORIS.

[We are of opinion that a nurse should only undertake a duty of this description at the request of a medical practitioner.—Ed.]

#### WHY NOT SKY-SCRAPERS?

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—In New York, where land is so limited owing to the two rivers, the difficulty of housing "business" has been met by erecting sky-

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