



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.

POOR HONORIA.

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

DEAR MADAM,—So long as there is no standard for nurses to attain, and no unprejudiced test of a nurse's efficiency, so long we shall suffer from the influx of "poor Honorias" into the training-schools. The "Real Conversation" published last week was to the life, and I know of numbers of instances where it is considered "waste of good material" to send a bright, intelligent member of the family to train as a nurse. Should one daughter be more dull and stupid, or more "unhappy" in temperament than the rest, it is looked upon as good discipline for her to be sent to train as a nurse. Poor patients! No doubt many of them agree with the "Vicar" that it would be happier for them if their attendants were "cultured and intelligent women."

Does not all this prove that some sort of test of general education and intelligence should be demanded by institutions professing to train nurses? What other class of "school" admits all and sundry, good, bad, and indifferent, without inquiry, as hospitals are at liberty to do? Such lack of system makes the Matrons' and Sisters' work most wearisome. It is high time these institutions calling themselves "schools" should be compelled to give evidence of their educational arrangements. Many of them have neither curriculum nor system, and are managed by a committee on which there is not one person who knows the elements of medicine or nursing, or the methods of general education, and these are the men who proclaim from the housetops their "expert" nursing knowledge. The whole thing is a horrid muddle, and wants ravelling out.—Yours,

A HOSPITAL SISTER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—"Poor Honoria" is well known to most hospital Matrons, and, indeed, owing to the lack of co-operation between the training-schools, if she cannot get into one hospital, as the "Vicar" says, "there are others." My experience is that the education of the applicants for training as nurses has greatly deteriorated of late years, presumably because there are so many more openings for women who work. This is a serious matter for the sick, and can only be rectified by a standard being decided upon, both of general knowledge and training for nurses, below which we must not sink.—Yours truly,

A SPECIAL HOSPITAL MATRON.

REGISTRATIONITIS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Amy Hughes' letter in your last issue is admirable, and will help to make clear

much in the Registration question. Of course, such an important matter as the organisation of nursing in which 80,000 persons are employed cannot be accomplished without a "strife of tongues," and the keener the strife the better, as it proves there is something in the question. The efficiency of trained nurses is of paramount importance to every member of the community, so I, for one, am glad to read charges and countercharges, to hear of manifestoes, pamphlets, meetings, or anything else which will awaken the public to a sense of their own danger under existing circumstances, and that our Society in two years has been able to accomplish this herculean task speaks worlds for the energy of its officers and members. All over this country, and in Scotland and Ireland, Registration is being discussed, resolutions being passed for and against; in fact, registrationitis is raging. It is to be hoped that out of all this excitement, organisation will be evolved. Anyway, it is doing no end of good, because we are all inclined to accept things as they are, and wish to be let alone, so long as they do not injure us individually. Now self-interest, if nothing better, is making many persons inquire into the question, and many converts are being made for Registration. Members of Parliament are also being stirred up, for and against, so something is sure to come out of it by-and-by.

Now, why can't some small unofficial meetings be held in London without ceremony, where nurses who do not understand the question of Registration could drop in and hear a lucid explanation. No one could do this better than Miss Amy Hughes, so well known to many of us, and known to be our friend. Let us hear the pros and cons, as at present hundreds of nurses are being influenced to oppose Registration without any valid reasons being given them, and, sheeplike, they do just as they are told. It is a pity there are two Bills before Parliament, especially as the R. B. N. A. is taking no active part in the work of propaganda, as far as I can learn. No reply has so far been issued in opposition to Mr. Holland's manifesto, signed by several hon. officers of the Association, nor are Members of Parliament being actively canvassed in support of its Bill.

Yours sincerely,

AN ACTIVE REGISTRATIONIST.

[We regret that, owing to a press of work for Registration, and the forthcoming meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Berlin, we cannot help to organise such meetings at present as suggested by our correspondent. But the suggestion is a good one, and we shall be pleased to hear from those who could put it into practice. A room for the purpose could be lent at 431, Oxford Street, by arrangement.—Ed.]

"TERRIBLE PERSONS."

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your report of remarks made by an eminent medical woman in reference to nurses at the meeting in support of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund amazed me when I read them, and must have been sorely humiliating to the nursing staff of the New Hospital for Women. It appears to me the whole attack on nurses from one in opposition to their Registration by the State proves absolutely that if the experience of the lady in question has been so awful that she has

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