



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 ETHICS OF THE LAY NURSING PRESS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I just draw the attention of the nursing world to the words of Miss Dock in reference to "nursing politics," when alluding in the *American Journal of Nursing* to the exclusion of Registration Politics by Messrs. Macmillan, when issuing their nursing paper. "The new journal is not going to mention 'nursing politics.' This is a sort of war-cry among certain people. What we rightly and justly call, vital and important conditions under which, as workers, we have to work, and under which, as human beings we live, and by which we are affected in our education and progress, are here called 'nursing politics.' I find the term flippant and discourteous.

"It seems to me that the one and only reason for nursing journals is that they shall express the opinions of nurses. I rate literary attainment, and even scientific professional articles, in importance far below the actual real impression of our Sisterhood, and its work that we get from our own journals. We do not need sugared pills. If we want the latest discovery in medicine, there are splendid medical journals; and if we want the women's movement there are fine women's journals. What we want in a nursing journal is to hear our members speak; to know what they are doing; to exchange our thought with theirs; to feel the drawing together.

"But so long as money is to be made, we will have the lay pabulum in plenty."

Now that exactly expresses the opinion of many nurses to-day, but it is immensely to their discredit as a class that they are willing to have their most sacred professional affairs and feelings made a commercial commodity by publishers greedy of gain, society journalists, and professional philanthropists.

In the United States, Canada, Australasia, and Denmark, and soon to be in Germany, the Nurses' Associations own and manage their own professional press, and it is a shame that the great body of nurses in the United Kingdom are so inert and supine that they have left it to one woman's professional honour to finance the only weekly journal which supports their interests, and without which they would long since have been groaning under the heel of an intolerable bureaucracy.

I wonder if the nurses in Great Britain realize what would be their position without the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. How about the Board of Trade for instance?

It is time the nurses in England and Scotland aroused themselves from their appalling apathetic indifference, and showed the keen sense of personal and professional responsibility which has evolved a wholesome solidarity amongst their Irish sisters, their colleagues in our free Colonies, and also in the United States.

SHAMROCK.

DEAR MADAM,—I have had occasion to remonstrate with the editor of Macmillan and Co.'s nursing paper for taking the official notices of this Society without acknowledging their source of information, and printing them under notice of "Coming Events" as if officially communicated to it. In an anonymous reply marked "Private," impertinent in tone, I am informed by "The Editor" that he or she still intends to violate the courtesy and honour of Press law in this particular. I shall be obliged, therefore, if you will be good enough to permit me to make it quite clear to the members of this Society of professional women that we are not making use of this secretly conducted anti-registration paper in any way whatever.—I am, &c.,

S. E. CARTWRIGHT,
Secretary, Registered Nurses' Society.

IS IT POSSIBLE?

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have been offered the position of Sister in a hospital at which the Matron is conscientiously opposed to State Registration of Nurses. I, on the other hand, feel equally convinced that registration is right. Could we work in sympathy? Would I be disloyal to accept this office and continue to belong to the S.S.R. and work for it, knowing my Matron strongly objects?

Yours, S. M. L.

[So long as you faithfully perform your duties when on duty, we do not think your Matron's jurisdiction goes further, and both she and you have a perfect right to hold what views you choose on any subject outside your hospital work and conduct. Whether you will find it congenial to work under a lady whose opinions on nursing ethics, professional organisation, and nursing education are diametrically opposed to your own, is another question. Each individual nurse must decide this for herself. It depends to a great extent upon the temperaments of the two persons concerned.—ED.]

Comments and Replies.

B., Edinburgh.—You will find "The Problem of the Trained Nurse," by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, in last month's *National Review*, page 309. Have sent you the other articles you require.

Sister, Bristol.—It is a matter for the Committee. We strongly disapprove of probationers being sent out private nursing. Such responsible work should not be undertaken until after three years' hospital work, it is unfair on nurse and patient. Many hospitals and private nursing institutions oppose State Registration because it would prevent large sums of money being made by this method.

Mrs. T. O'B., Dublin.—We should not advise you to begin nursing at your age, especially as you only wish for "an insight."

Nurse Pearce, Salisbury.—You should obtain the Allenburys Feeder from Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, 48, Wigmore Street, London, W. It is quite the best feeding-bottle for infants with which we are acquainted.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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