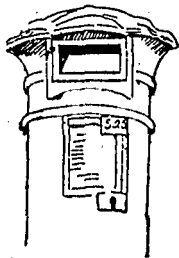


Letters to the Editor.

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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of one guinea for puzzle prize.

Yours faithfully,

The Hospital,
High Wycombe.

F. A. WILLIAMS.

A SOLUTION OF A PUZZLE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—*"Lætus Sorte Mea"* pays me a great compliment in treating my little sketch, *"On Nurses"* so seriously. I think her letter states the case admirably, save that I do not quite understand why the suffering of others should make one more thankful for one's own good health. Though I am not a nurse, I see a little of the darker side of life; and when I see the breadwinner of a family, or the mother of helpless little ones laid low by disease, my own good health seems rather an irony; just as one thought of the terrible sorrow and suffering of which the world is full will darken the brightest summer day. For my part I think the troubles of others are much harder to bear than one's own. In any heavy sorrow is it not an additional burden to think that there are thousands of people throughout the world who are suffering in the same way? If one could think: "Never again will anyone have this trouble to bear," how cheerfully one would "bite on the bullet." This may be a morbid view of life—at any rate it gives me the more admiration for the splendid courage with which nurses face life's tragedies.

Yours faithfully,

JESSIE HARVEY.

SKILLED NURSING FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The suggestion that the fees of a nurse should be proportionate to those charged by the surgeon or physician would, no doubt, in many ways be an excellent arrangement if carried into effect, but, at the outset one is confronted by a practical difficulty, viz., by what means can nurses obtain the knowledge upon which to base their charges? Many doctors would object to informing the nurse of the fees they are charging the patient and there seems neither any authority to make them do so, nor any reason why they should.

The matter of fees is one of private arrangement between doctor and patient, in my view it should be the same between nurse and patient. Of course, the nurse might inform the patient that her fees bear a

certain proportion to those of the doctor, leaving the amount to be fixed by the patient, but I do not think this would be a very satisfactory arrangement.

In my view the best plan for patients upon whom a nurse's ordinary charges press heavily, would be to insure for nursing attendance, the insurance society paying the nurse's claim.

Many clubs make provision for medical assistance in illness. It would not be difficult to apply the same principle to nursing attendance. Nothing presses more hardly on a household that is not well-to-do than sickness, and there is therefore no direction in which provision of a provident nature is more required. The suggestion is one worthy of the consideration of insurance societies.

I am, dear madam,

Yours faithfully,

A PRACTICAL PERSON.

A WELL-DESERVED HONOUR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see your notice of the honour conferred on Miss Louisa Stevenson by the Senatus of Edinburgh University. I think your readers may be interested to learn what Sir Ludovic Grant said on introducing Miss Stevenson to Sir William Turner to receive the Hon. Degree of LL.D., as Miss Stevenson is so well known to many of them, owing to her championship of the nurses' registration cause.

Sir Ludovic Grant said: "Already fourteen years have elapsed since the Scottish Universities first opened their gates to women students; the sight of 'the softer Adams of our Academe' has lost its novelty though none of its charm; and a generation is arising that reckons not of the time when they were not an integral part of the established system. But, in truth, the admission of women to University privileges was the culminating point of a long and laborious movement, and Miss Stevenson has been deemed worthy of academic recognition to-day because of her signal efforts in directing this movement to a successful issue. Strenuous in action, tenacious of purpose, and of high courage, Miss Stevenson proved a doughty champion of the cause to which she devoted herself unsparingly. It was during her administration as secretary that the Association instituted in this city for the higher education of women became, within its precincts in Shandwick Place, a medium of University instruction. It was under her auspices that the Council of the Association extended their aims and pressed the claims of women for admission within the Universities themselves. When the Commission on University Education met here, the evidence given by Miss Stevenson produced a profound impression by its clearness and the intimate knowledge and grasp of principles which it exhibited. In all that concerns the well-being of the women students in the University, Miss Stevenson has shown a sympathetic and most generous interest and in particular our academic sisterhood are beholden to her for her services in connection with the institution of the Masson Hall. While the advancement of the higher education of women has

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)