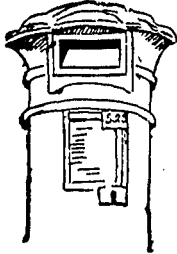


Letters to the Editor.

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 NURSES' HOSTEL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As one who has been compelled by the force of circumstances to spend a week at the above Hostel, and having suffered from its tone and management, I should like to thank you for the able and most just accounts in recent issues of what has occurred there.

Amongst the nursing, as well as amongst the medical profession, the management of the Hostel is so well known for its tone, so lacking in courtesy, that there is no further need to enlarge on the subject.

While the past management was in power, one felt the absolute hopelessness of endeavouring to speak on the subject or to try and help one's colleagues who, through limited means, unfortunate circumstances, or other reason, were obliged to put up at the Hostel and to submit themselves to the tyrannical treatment they were daily subjected to.

But now that there has been a move, that the ice has been broken, that nurses have risen to the occasion and proved themselves possessed of grit and initiative, allow me through your valuable paper to express to them my admiration and sympathy in the splendid and just stand they have made.

The week I spent at the Hostel is never to be forgotten, and when I left and returned to St. Andrew's Club, it was not with feelings of relief and joy that I had escaped that other atmosphere, but rather with a feeling of sadness that I had left behind me colleagues less fortunate than myself who were obliged through circumstances to put up with the despotism existing there. With regard to the telephone, I have been told by the medical profession that they have ceased employing nurses who stayed at the Hostel, as they would not put up with the rough answers they had received, and that they objected to passing on professional secrets to their nurses through any medium whatever, especially that of a porter!

With every sympathy to my colleagues for their valiant efforts for justice and freedom,

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
A MATRON.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The excuse given to the nurses at the Hostel for the dismissal of Miss Hulme, namely, that she was attempting to make a nursing institution out of an hotel is feeble in the extreme. Nurses have always been sent out if a call has been made for a

nurse and the few sent by Miss Hulme during her few weeks' residence were selected by the Secretary, Miss Paul.

A pity it is for the good name of the Hostel that fully-qualified nurses have not always been sent. Take, for instance, the case of Miss W.—, who, when nursing for the military authorities, was stricken down with enteric fever, who at the time (I hope they have become more just and generous since) only paid 35s. a week for nurses, and when they applied to the Hostel for a nurse—a maternity-trained nurse was sent—with terrible results. She upset the pan in the bed, and then took out the patient and placed her on the floor, where, as luck would have it, the doctor found her. As the result of bad nursing Miss W.— was a wreck, and the nurses at the Hostel made an indignant protest to Miss Wood on the matter. I regret to say the only answer they got was that the military authorities could not expect to get a thoroughly trained nurse for 35s. a week!

Then some very undesirable people have been admitted, with whom the nurses have been compelled to associate. Take, for instance, "the Princess Soltykoff," the notorious thief Prebble, now again in durance vile at Holloway. I have long ago sold my shares and shaken the dust of Francis Street off my shoes, but in spite of poverty, there is very little doubt that unless reforms are made in the management of the Nurses' Hostel, the company will regret it.

Yours truly,
A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In the early part of this year I had a friend staying at the "Hostel" in Francis Street, I was in London at the time. The first time I visited her (she was expecting me) I rang and knocked for some minutes and then my friend happened to pass the front door, saw someone there, and opened the door to see if it were I.

The second time I visited her (she was not expecting me) I rang and knocked as before, got no answer, so at last walked in, went to her room, left a book, took one of hers, hunted round the room for a piece of paper to leave a message on, and walked out again, without meeting anyone.

All the subsequent visits I paid her, after ringing or knocking once, I walked in.

I asked my friend why she did not lock her door, but she told me the lock would only work when the door was open, not when it was closed.

Might not some of the thefts be put down to the fact that strangers have such a free access.

Yours faithfully,
C. C. DU SAUTOY.

Southwell, Notts.

"LITTLE JIM."

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

DEAR MADAM,—Looking back to the thoughtless probationary days, how many of us must also have twinges of conscience about our "Little Jims," the suffering we might have saved, if only we had been.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)