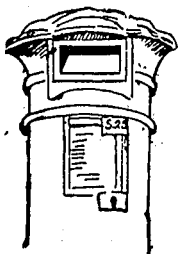


Letters to the Editor.

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,—Thank you very much for your cheque for puzzle prize, for which I enclose receipt. I am fortunate to have been successful.

Yours truly,

G. L. REYNOLDS.

Elwick Hall,
Castle Eden,
Co. Durham.

NURSES NEED BUSINESS HABITS.

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

MADAM,—In reply to my advertisement in two of your recent issues for nurses to work on a Private Nurses' Co-operation in London I have received dozens of replies, and selected the number I require for this staff. May I mention that only about one in twenty who replied to the advertisement enclosed a stamp for reply.

Yours truly,

SUPERINTENDENT.

THE CARE OF THE DEAD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much interest and profit the paper by Miss M. Burr in your issue of 6th October on "The Care of the Dead," and my high appreciation of it leads me all the more to regret Miss Burr's attitude with regard to undertakers. Doubtless there are undertakers as ignorant of the details of their work as those Miss Burr depicts, just as there are incompetents among nurses, and even among doctors. But it is a mistake to judge any set of people by the failures among them. The majority of undertakers have given careful, intelligent study for years to all the details of their calling, and, as the result of wide experience, they know more than doctors and nurses know, or have the opportunities for knowing, about the care and treatment of the dead. A nurse who meets a man of this kind would do well to recognise their respective duties in the death chamber, and as helpers to the relatives of the dead.

"He was like a son to me in my trouble," said a widow to me, speaking of the undertaker; "indeed," she added, "had my sons been at home they could not have been more considerate, and they would not have had the experience to enable them to be so helpful." "It is a comfort when sorrow comes to

have him to turn to," said another of the undertaker he had employed.

I realise how important it is for the welfare of the community that undertakers should be of such a type as these. I realise also what a barrier a generally-accepted opinion is to those who wish to rise to something better. And for these reasons I venture to challenge Miss Burr's remarks on the subject, and to trouble you with this long letter.

Yours truly,

JUSTICE.

TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MATRONS. *To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—As an old reader of your admirable Journal, I have long wished to see nursing as it is in the United States, and a chance offering, I came to America this last summer. I have visited many hospitals in many cities, and found amongst them the best and the second best, but in every one I have been immensely struck by the nurses themselves. Never have I met so many intelligent, professionally-minded women. From the Superintendents, who are quite devoid of bounce—that peculiar form of vanity which often makes English Matrons so reactionary and intolerant of outside influences—to the probationers I have received nothing but politeness and helpfulness. These ladies are alert and interested in all questions that make for the uplifting of the people generally, they understand the educational significance of Registration by the State, they have none of the slavish fear of officials and doctors which is such a marked weakness with nurses in England, they are the most simple, as they are the most dignified women I have ever met.

It is impossible to express what an example the nurses of the world have in their American sisters or how much good it would do us all if we came more into personal contact with them. If I were a rich woman I would found travelling scholarships for Sisters aspiring to be Matrons and send them over here for six months or a year, just to realise the professional atmosphere in American Nursing Schools.

Everyone here loves true education—and you know how we hate it at home—the mere fact of a nurse wishing for an efficient practical education—so that she may do her work honestly—is sufficient to arouse around her defenceless brain a chorus of disapprobation by the noisy champions of the cheap unfits. Sometimes I am inclined to think we are a nation of quacks, so determinedly do we fight against *thoroughness* in every branch of education. Any way, every one here can hope, and, without living for a century, see solid progress made; it is very inspiring. You will be pleased to know that the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is held in great affection by many leaders of nursing progress in the States. They recognise it as the pioneer of professional nursing journalism, and are grateful for the solid stand it has made for the essentials. Buffalo Congress is also a landmark, and Paris is in the air. May the meeting be a great success. I hope to be home in time for it.

Yours ever truly,

"ONE OF THOSE MONKEYS."

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