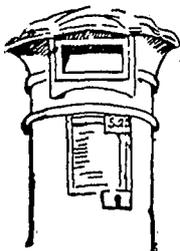


Letters to the Editor.

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.

ROUTING THE REBELS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—You will doubtless have heard from various shareholders about the sad fiasco of our meeting at the Nurses' Hostel on Thursday, but I do not know if you have heard of the high-handed policy of the officials (men who are either making money out of the company, or paid women officials) since the annual meeting. Three of the nurses who have helped to expose the condition of affairs have been given notice to quit, and doubtless other notices will follow—the *mot d'ordre* is that the "rebels" are to be rooted out. No reason is given to the women; this is indeed little Russia! For the future, no one who dares to hold contrary views to those in authority will be allowed to stay in this "hotel" (?).

But a show of courage always does good, and the "rebels" have, at any rate, by their courage and persistence won many privileges for future visitors to the Hostel, and more's the pity for the cringing crew, who, most consistent in their grumbling *behind backs*, speak fair to the official face, and form claquees at meetings at the bidding of their masters; it is ever thus with women dependent for their very bread upon others. It is most sad. I do think it cannot be too widely known amongst nurses all over the country that in visiting the nurses' "Hotel" they are liable to be turned out at a moment's notice without reason, and that if they enter its portals with a decade of good work and good character to their credit, like Miss Hulme, the present Directorate empower our paid officials to ruin their reputations and embroil the company in litigation.—Yours gratefully,

A INDIGNANT SHAREHOLDER.

INSOLENCE OF OFFICE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to thank you for the help which your valuable paper has given to the cause of justice in the case of Miss Hulme. The "insolence of office" which has been so conspicuous a feature in the management of the Hostel has at last been exposed, if it is possible to expose what is a "household word" in the nursing profession. The Directors need not for a moment suppose that there is any misconception on the part of the nurses, as to its being a most profitable investment to all concerned and that the officials who are paid, or rather receive their salaries from the "Hostel's takings," are simply their servants, and not, as one might suppose from the manner which they discharge the said duties—

almoners. They are, I repeat, the servants of the guests of the Hostel, be they gentle or simple, and their living depends upon their giving satisfaction to the said guests. If only everyone who receives incivility would expose it, it would soon be remedied. This high handed "You may go if you don't like it," would have to be discontinued. If the guests took them at their word, where would the salaries, etc. come from? The nurses have to pay over £600 per annum to these insolent officials and the servants, and have a right to be treated with respect instead of contumely.

Again thanking you,

I remain, etc.,

A SHAREHOLDER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly insert this in your next issue. I was present at the shareholders' meeting at the Hostel last Thursday, and was sorry to see that the new Superintendent created a most unfavourable impression as to the future management of the Hostel. The air of patronage was, I might almost say, aggressive, giving the impression that she was going on the same lines as her predecessors, which will be fatal to the interests of the shareholders. I am afraid the Directors will find to their cost they have thrown away their "trump card" in discontinuing the giving of "cases" to the resident nurses. They don't seem to realise that the great majority of the nurses lived there for that alone. Not because they enjoyed being snubbed and treated like whipped curs, but in order to get their daily bread, they submitted. "Oh, the tragedy of it!" Thanking you in anticipation,

A WORM WHO HAS TURNED.

DOWN WITH DIVIDENDS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—What respect can anyone have for nurses? they are the most hopeless class of women in the world. Just fancy any trained nurse accepting the position of Superintendent of the Nurses' Hostel after the treatment of Miss Hulme, and especially one who was in the house and witnessed the horrible degradation and overbearing injustice to which she was subjected by the Managing Director. It makes one's blood boil—but I suppose "needs must, when the devil (that is dependence) drives." Anyway, if there is an ounce of pluck amongst us, let us take the legal advice so recently offered by the Directors' solicitor—clear out—and not only that but take good care that none of our friends *go in*. I hear Miss Hulme proposes to start a Nurses' Hotel, on non-reformatory lines. Let us support her loyally. Down with dividends—that is the only way to bring people to their senses.

Yours,

A PRACTICAL PERSON.

DREYFUS IN THE NURSING WORLD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Just as certainly as Dreyfus has returned from the Devil's Isle, and has been honourably re-instated in the French Army, and his enemies, forgers and murderers all, have paid the penalty of their crimes, so will the Nurses' Hostel in Francis Street have to purge itself of its disgrace,

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