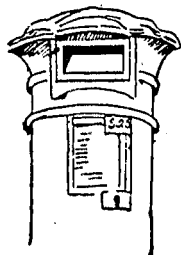


Letters to the Editor.

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 INSULAR EGO.

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

DEAR MADAM,—For egotism and true British self-conceit I think the letter signed "Disappointed" in your issue of March 30th will take some beating.

Surely the fact that the minimum period of training, before a nurse may register or go into private practice in New Zealand is three years, ought to be enough to show "Disappointed" that the "Small Colony"—as she calls it—is not so primitive after all.

It is more than we have been able to manage in the Old Country.

And why? Because we are so satisfied with ourselves.

When are nurses, and the medical profession generally, going to realise that nursing in private practice is a responsible calling, for which the highest possible training is necessary, and not a something that may be taken up by anyone who has a little knowledge of the rules of nursing, gained by being in hospital one or even two years?

It would then be impossible for anyone to do what "Disappointed" does, viz., calmly to say—and not be the least ashamed of the fact—"I have only a two years' training certificate, but have had much experience since."

How about the patients when the half-trained nurse starts in private practice? They provide the experience, I suppose.

Certainly State Registration will not do away with all poor nurses, but it will insure a recognised minimum standard of proficiency for all alike.

The registering of doctors has not made them all good, but it has prevented any man or woman who has studied a little chemistry, anatomy, and physiology from setting up a plate and calling himself or herself a doctor. All we ask is for a like protection. And, if we would only rouse ourselves and work a little harder we would get it.

I would like to ask "Disappointed" why she thinks our Colonies should enter us on their registers without asking the length of our training, as they know nothing of our standard of nursing—we being without a recognised one—when they can get good nurses of their own?

I was also rather amused at "Disappointed" being under the impression that she would be conferring a favour on New Zealand by going to nurse there.

Where are our Colonial doctors mostly trained?

In the Mother Country, of which I, along with "Disappointed," am also justly proud. Therefore, as it is they who have largely to do with the training of their lieutenants, the nurses, we may reasonably expect that they are not content with less than the best.

I should like also to say that the New Zealand nurses I have met, have been as intelligent as ourselves, not to mention that they were very good nurses, and worked with some of the best London surgeons, in spite of the fact that they came from and were trained at the Antipodes!

Hoping the day is not far distant when we, like some of our small Colonies, will have a recognised standard of training.

Yours faithfully,

BRITISH NURSE.

[We heartily commend New Zealand for demanding a standard from nurses trained in the Mother Country. Such sensible action will be of the greatest help to us in gaining State Registration. If only the whole of Australasia, Canada, and South Africa would do likewise, our Government would be compelled to listen to our just demands. New Zealand has made a very good beginning, and we thank her wise legislators.—Ed.]

THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—"A Chronic" asks "What can be done to make trained nurses alive to social conditions?"

The answer to this is—Let people take more personal interest in nurses, especially private nurses, and those in training. If there were more meetings like those we have in Somerset under the Nurses' Social Union (of which there is a notice of a meeting in Bristol in the same issue as "A Chronic's" letter), nurses would not be as dull as they are. They are encouraged by the Committee of the Union to take an interest in everything, as well as having opportunity to meet and discuss their work and anything else which interests them. There is also a library in connection, through which, by paying a small subscription, nurses can have all the latest papers forwarded to them, and almost any book they wish.

Yours truly,

A TRAINED NURSE.

Taunton.

CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH.

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

DEAR MADAM,—A woman who would tell an untruth about her age, to deceive the Matron and hospital authorities, to gain admittance as a probationer, would certainly be the wrong sort from the start; yet I know it is constantly done. In this hospital I regret to say such lack of principle amongst candidates has compelled us to request the copy of the certificate of birth for some time past.

Yours truly,

FEVER HOSPITAL MATRON.

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