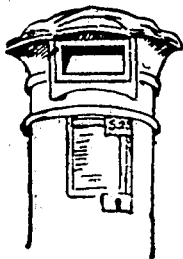


Letters to the Editor.

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."

Mrs. Sheard thanks the Editor very much for cheque received safely, and also for the very nice way in which the announcement of the prize was inserted in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. She finds it a great pleasure to solve the puzzles, and also thinks the paper an interesting one, having taken it since the NURSING RECORD was first established.

Norfolk House, Chislehurst West, Kent.

A SATISFACTORY RESULT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I be allowed to say that I received a large number of replies to my advertisement, which appeared in your columns, and have now got the work I required.

Yours faithfully,

Box 82.

"BOGUS NURSES."

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

DEAR MADAM,—I always hold that people who air their opinions in the press, and are not ashamed of them, should sign their names in full. The writer of the article on "Bogus Nurses," which appeared in the *Daily Mail* of Aug. 7, is quite obscure, does not even give initials by which he may be traced! He may well be ashamed of the nonsense he talks.

In the first part of the letter, he deals with the fraudulent, counterfeit "Nurse," who is often a criminal masquerader; he admits that she is *de trop*! There is nothing new in that; then comes a long preamble, all bearing on the same fact, viz., that the "Bogus Nurse" exists, but offering no suggestion for her extermination; merely saying very illogically that the public can safeguard itself, but not by the "misleading hall mark" of State Registration. The writer suggests that the employer, in sending for a nurse, should make careful enquiries about her.

In view of the many bogus Nursing Institutions, who send out women they call Nurses, where would be the satisfaction of such enquiries? and how are the public to be safeguarded by such means? We need a much more potent remedy for so flagrant an evil. I observe that those opposed to State Registration are fond of urging that it would not stand for the moral excellencies of a nurse, and this nameless one harps on the same

string. Do these objectors suppose for a moment that nurses will be admitted to the honour of State Registration without any inquiry into their antecedents!

Technical skill is spoken of as a "side issue"! By the arguments of some of these objectors, one would suppose that a Registered Nurse possessing technical skill, could not at the same time be a good woman! Is she an anomaly? Why should the Christian virtues of gentleness, conscientiousness, unselfishness, loyalty, and patience be dissociated from the Registered Nurse?

To talk about technical skill as merely a "side issue" is surely most mischievous.

A story has reached my ears, of a Nurse who could not pass the catheter; she was in charge of a lady in a foreign country, and some distance from a doctor; it was a case of such urgency that the bladder ruptured and the patient died! Could sweetness of character atone for this lack of knowledge? No reform sweeps away all abuses with one stroke; the essence of reform is gradual and steady improvement. What has State Registration done for midwifery! It has, no doubt, saved the lives of many mothers and children, by weeding out many ignorant and intemperate women from the ranks.

Nothing but the strong arm of the law will deliver us from national evils, and State Registration for nurses is what we want, and we must and will have it.

BEATRICE KENT.

A GREAT BREACH OF TRUST.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like, through the medium of your paper, to invite the opinion of nurses in general, and especially private nurses, as to the honourable or dishonourable action of sleeping on night duty. I am afraid it is a growing evil. I remember in my "pro" days my Staff Nurse informing me in a serious and solemn manner that if I saw her in the kitchen with her head thrown back and her eyes shut not to take any notice, but just to go on with my work as usual, as she would only be feeling a little faint, and would recover in time if left quite alone. She did, but more promptly if the Night Sister unexpectedly paid a visit to the ward. I have now for many years been in private work, where self-respect or conscience is one's only master. If a nurse cannot feel that every item of her work is as worthy of inspection as if it were to be supervised by her Matron, Sister, or the whole army of hospital authorities, then I am quite sure that the character of the nurse must deteriorate, and she is not worthy of the patients' confidence or that of their friends. Under what circumstances is a nurse justified in sleeping on night duty? I am speaking, of course, of cases where sufficient time is given for rest during the day. Is it fair that a patient (or her friends) should be paying two or even three guineas a week and then have to wake the nurse out of a sound sleep to attend to her wants, or, as some poor, long-suffering patients would do, wait until she

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)