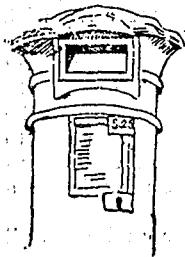


## Letters to the Editor

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.*

### COTTAGE NURSES' TRAINING HOME, GOVAN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I be allowed to say a few words in answer to the letter signed "A Primrose Dame" in your issue of September 28th.

I am in favour of nurses who have had three or four years' hospital training, and nurses who have only received a short training, being distinguished from each other by some addition to the name "Nurse." For instance, I think "Cottage Nurse" would be very suitable as a recognised title of nurses who have received a short training; and "Hospital Nurse" or "Fully Trained Nurse" might be used for the other section of nurses. But this question of descriptive names for nurses can be considered quite apart from the question of State Registration. I do not propose to enter into the controversy on State Registration, but my opinions on it are the same as when I signed Mr. Holland's Manifesto.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

ALICE BALFOUR.

Whittingehame, Prestonkirk, N.B.

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

MADAM,—I have to thank Lady Balfour of Burleigh for the replies to my queries and to congratulate her ladyship and those associated with her, on the management of the Nursing Association in Clackmannanshire, which forms a striking contrast to the management of the Govan Cottage Nurses' Training Home.

In my opinion, had the management of the Govan Home even approached that of the former Association, the crisis in the affairs of the Govan Home would not have been precipitated at the present time.

Those responsible for the method of training would no doubt have put their house in order as the spirit of the times guided them, and the passing of the Holt-Ockley system would have been peaceful indeed. What the Ladies Balfour of Burleigh and Helen Shaw Stewart say regarding the good qualities of, and the useful work done by their respective nurses may be very true, but it is not the merits of individual nurses that are under discussion. It is rather the demerits of the system of training followed at the Govan Home. The medical men of Govan could quite truly give the same testimony

to good qualities of and useful work performed by a number of respectable handy women in the district who have not received even a partial training, but they would never think of putting them on the same level with or in positions which should be occupied by skilled nurses.

I am, Madam, yours truly,

J. B. CUMMING.

1, Stuart Street, Govan.

### HOW COTTAGE NURSES ARE TRAINED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am no pessimist, neither do I feel ill-disposed towards my fellow creatures; yet I cannot keep my eyes open and at the same time deny that the evils accruing from untrained women in the field of nursing are becoming more and more apparent.

I am at present nursing a lady in the south-west of England who, a few weeks ago, went into the local hospital—of about 15 beds—to undergo amputation of the leg.

In a very true sense she went on to the field of battle, and received four wounds—one of necessity, and three gratuitous ones—burns from hot-water bottles! One of them became a bad, sloughing wound, and has only just healed after many weeks, leaving a very pronounced scar. The responsibility of dressing this serious burn was given to a two-months' probationer!

Another lady living in the neighbourhood went through the same operation. When she became convalescent they got her up one evening and placed her in a chair by the fire, and then left her, and forgot all about her until past 10 p.m.! Then the head of this untrained band returned, and without one word of apology, said jokingly, "Poor Mrs. F.; fancy forgetting her." By that time the poor patient was so miserable from weakness and discomfort that she burst into tears.

I think if the gentlemen of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, who took the evidence of those in favour of State registration for nurses, could know how the suffering and long-suffering public are victimised by women who masquerade as nurses, we should not have so long to wait for the passing of the Bill which will secure to them what they pay for—viz., fully-trained, conscientious nurses.

In the meantime, would it not be as well to form immediately a society for the prevention of cruelty to helpless patients from counterfeit nurses! If you think well of this let me have the pleasure of being the first subscriber.

I am sure you will readily understand that, in writing this, I have nothing against the profession to which I have the honour to belong.

It is because I am jealous of its reputation, and long to see these flagrant abuses remedied, and the tares sifted from the wheat.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

BEATRICE KENT.

### A DISTINCTIVE UNIFORM.

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

MADAM,—As the mixing up of midwives and

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