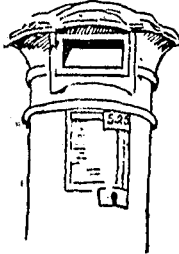


Letters to the Editor.

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,—I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the cheque for one guinea. I was much surprised and very pleased to find that I was the lucky one.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A. THOMAS.

The Park Hospital, Hither Green.

A NURSE'S DEFENCE UNION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—A meeting of the Committee of the Kingston Infirmity Nurses' League was held on Tuesday, November 26th, at which the desirability of organising a "Nurses' Defence Union" was discussed, and a resolution was unanimously passed that a letter be sent to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to assure those who are endeavouring to form such a Union that the K.I.N. League will strongly support their efforts on its behalf.

Yours faithfully,

B. M. STANIER,

Hon. Sec., K.I.N.L.

A MIDWIVES' REFERENCE LIBRARY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—We are trying to build up a reference library for the Midwives of the Royal Maternity Charity of London, to be kept in their waiting room at the Offices in Finsbury Square, and the Committee would be very grateful for the gifts of any medical books, especially those on matters obstetrical and the care of infants. Possibly some amongst your readers may be able to spare us a few.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

G. LIONEL B. KILICK, Secretary.

31, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.

THE NURSES' OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I do not expect for one moment that anything I do will meet the approval of your paper or yourself. Your readers have long been taught to see the cloven hoof in all my movements. But I am surprised that a "Private Nurse" should look upon the Bill for setting up an Official Directory of Nurses as such a dreadful step, and I cannot understand why every nurse who cares

about her profession does not support such a Bill. My views on State Registration are well known to your readers, but this Bill does not affect that question one way or another. State Registration is, to use Lady Helen Munro Ferguson's words, a "continuing guarantee by the State that every-one on the Register is a good nurse." The Official Directory will only guarantee that the entries opposite the nurse's name are correct. You are always collecting examples of women pretending they are nurses and finding their way to the police-court. State Registration would not stop this. It would only stop a woman calling herself a registered nurse—which, of course, such women would not do. The Official Register would, however, prevent any woman claiming to have had a training which she has not had, and would enable the employer at once to find out what training the nurse he was being nursed by, say at a surgical home, had been through. Surely this is of some advantage, and at any rate I may claim that it cannot possibly do harm to well-trained nurses, and will effectually prevent women who have had little or no training posing as nurses. I should have thought that such a Bill would have met with general approval, and that for once Anti and Pro-Registrationists might have combined.

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY HOLLAND.

London Hospital, E.

[May we disabuse Mr. Holland's mind of the deduction that because we stand for State organisation and control of the nursing profession, of which he has until now been so determined an opponent, that we are biased personally. This journal has on numerous occasions expressed warm approval and admiration for Mr. Holland's great work as a hospital reformer and administrator, but as a trained nurse we claim, and shall continue to do so, that nursing economics at the London Hospital are unsound and ungenerous.

(1) We claim that the probationers should have the privilege of a three years' consecutive course in the wards before certification, and that they should then be free agents, to join the private nursing staff or not, as they choose, the certification at the end of two years' practical work and compulsory two years' private service for gain for the hospital at the absolute discretion of the Matron is unjust.

(2) We claim that after three years' arduous hospital training nurses should have the same degree of State protection (their work is an inestimable national asset) that medical men have claimed for themselves, and with dentists, chemists, and midwives at present enjoy.

(3) We have spent the better part of twenty years in working for this reform, and are convinced that only by a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses—by which a Central Nursing Authority will be set up—can a minimum standard of nursing education be enforced, a just qualification for registration be defined, and a high standard of professional ethics be maintained.

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