

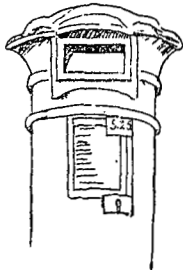
exception is Miss Harrison, who has one of the most sympathetic voices that I ever heard." A compliment indeed were these words, spoken by one who really understands the art of elocution, and could therefore well criticise thereon. Miss Harrison may well be congratulated, for of her it may be said—

"Her voice was ever soft,  
Gentle, and low; an excellent thing in woman."

\* \* \*

LADY organists, I learn, are now no unusual occurrence in Sweden; also in England there are many ladies who, especially in the country, play the organ during service. There is no real objection to such lady organists, although it always seems to me as if an organ were particularly a man's instrument; but it is hardly fair they should go at much lower rates of salary than their male competitors. I have never had an answer to my constant query, Why should women undersell men? Is it true that their work is inferior? I trow not. Instead, woman should receive more wages on account of her womanhood; for do not all polite men admit that she is their superior with her winning smiles and gentle influence? Why, then, should she be worse paid? Echo answers, Why?

VEVA KARSLAND.



### 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.*

*Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.*

#### A GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In common, I doubt not, with a large number of my provincial sister Members of the B.N.A., I feel much disappointed at not seeing a report in the *Nursing Record* of the last meeting of our General Council, which was supposed to have been an important one. Our Metropolitan sisters may pick up scraps of information from headquarters, or some other bye-channels of intelligence not accessible to us. Up to present date we remain in ignorance as to the proceedings of the last Council; what was said on the recent Registration scheme; who spoke, and what they "spoke"; where our annual meeting is to be held; and whether we are to have a picnic or not this summer.

I am aware that if we only possess our souls in patience we shall know all about these things in the early part of 1891, when our Calendar comes out (if we think to write for it), but with the frailty of human nature we may possibly have forgotten all about the April General Council by then.

In these days of swiftly and widely diffused intelligence, an Association that does not keep itself in touch with its widely scattered Members loses half its force; and when we know nothing, we are apt to care little about the doings of our leaders.

I take up my provincial newspaper. It is full of Metropolitan items of intelligence, such as—how a miscreant in the wilds of Whitechapel was deservedly punished for execrable cruelty to a cat; how a misguided young man, about to take his last plunge into the Thames from the Embankment, was promptly frustrated in his intention by P.C. X. 103; that the boot strike was over, and masherdom felt safe in its shoes; that the Princess of Wales looked superlatively charming at a function to which H.R.H. had lent the favour of her gracious presence; that whales had been seen in the Thames; that a young friend of our family was about to contest a Parliamentary seat in the capital of one of our Midland counties (confirmed a week later by letter as *news*). Now all this scrappy intelligence, with exception of the last, had not the slightest personal concern for me, but it all served to bring me into relation with my well-beloved London. I might search all our local newspapers, but not a word should I see about the B.N.A., much less its proceedings.

How am I and my sister Members to get our information then, if not from our paper? and without swift and reliable information respecting the doings of our leaders, shall we not be likely to lose our interest in them, and does this indifference tend to keep up the *esprit de corps*, in itself a powerful bond of union?

It may be justly urged that the bulk of the Members of the B.N.A. are neither from age, experience, education, nor social position fitted to take part in the working of the Association; this may be true, but I still urge that whatever else they are *not*, they are members of the B.N.A., and I trust neither too young to learn, too ignorant to be taught, nor too self-willed to be led up to a true knowledge of the worth, the value and the meaning of "Association," and so fit them in due time to be leaders themselves. How can they learn these duties of the future but by hearing and seeing what their leaders do for them in the present? Everything, from greatest to least, that concerns the interest of the Association should be a matter of earnest interest to every member of it; it is not to be thought of that we should all be of one opinion—that would emasculate us—but we ought to be and should be of one *heart* as regards the welfare of our Association that would unite us. And what better bond of membership could we have than a representative organ of our own, or an organ that represents us, reflects our opinions, records our proceedings, marks our progress, and knits together the widely scattered members of our Association?

In these days of journalistic enterprise an Association that hesitates to have journalistic representation is nowhere. I commend this subject to the thoughtful consideration of my sister Members of the B.N.A., Metropolitan or Provincial; it is fraught with great issues, go the matter how it may. Are we to be an Association of Nurses (Registered) or the British Nurses' Association? For into one or other of these grooves we must necessarily drift. Which is it to be? I leave my Nursing readers to think out for themselves.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

MARION HUMFREY.

#### PERCENTAGES FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—In the "Echoes" for April 24th, I see that at the last meeting of the B.N.A. allusion was made to the system of paying Private Nurses a percentage on their own earnings.

Now, although I think this a better method than paying only a fixed sum per annum, yet it seems to me that it does not meet the difficulties where Nurses are working in connection with an Institution governed by a Committee.

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