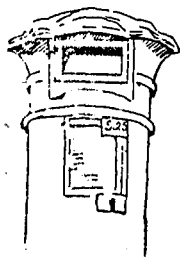


## Letters to the Editor.



## NOTES, QUERIES, &amp;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.*

## DO DAILY FEES PAY?

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

DEAR MADAM,—Do daily fees pay? Well, I think one must look at the question all round to come to a right conclusion. I am a member of a Nurses' Co-operation. Suppose I come in from a case in a not very busy time, and there are several members on the list before me, it is quite conceivable that it may pay me well to take daily fees.

I will give you an instance. My superintendent once asked me if I would take a case in a nursing home for two nights. I should not lose my turn on the rota, she said, if I did so. I went, and had a very nice patient, who said she should always send for me if she wanted a nurse at any time, and came back to find myself head of the list, and went out immediately. I received a guinea, and saved my board and lodging for those two days. But that was not all. I had also strengthened my connection, as events subsequently proved, for the same patient sent for me about six weeks ago, and I have just returned from a delightful tour abroad with her. Further, she has asked for my card to give to several of her friends. I consider that in this case daily fees have paid me well.

Yours faithfully,

Co-op.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I note in the regulations of quite a number of hospitals which send out private nurses that a full week's fee is required if a nurse is requisitioned, and hospitals which work everything with charity money can, and do, undersell private nurses in many ways. Thus, if these institutions which absorb thousands of pounds, earned by a not over-paid profession, find it necessary not to send out nurses at half the weekly fee, it is certainly much more necessary for competing nurses working on Co-operations, and on their own responsibility, to usually charge for the week. A good nurse gives out much more than she can ever be paid for; but, unfortunately, under present conditions, a very indifferent type of woman is taking up private nursing as a livelihood. Since I began nursing, fifteen years ago, this lowering of the mental standard is most marked amongst nurses, and one cannot wonder the public consider their ministrations dear at any price. The competition for the higher positions in hospitals and nursing services, with no chance of rising for the large majority, the poor pay of district nurses, and nursing institutions, and the professional chaos generally, make really intelligent women hesitate to adopt nursing as a

profession, and as the most ignorant rush into private work because of the pay, we all get a bad name in consequence.

M. S. A.

DISTRICT NURSING AND PATIENTS' PAYMENTS.  
*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—There seems to be a growing opinion, chiefly, I believe, amongst those who supply women, with a smattering of nursing knowledge, as nurses to the poor, rather than amongst those who think that the poor, when ill, should have as highly qualified nurses as the rich, that a charge should be made to the patients for the services of the nurse.

I believe in thrift and providence as much as anyone, but, after all, there are many who in health are above the "poverty line," who have a hard struggle to make ends meet, and who quickly descend to it when sickness visits the house. Their incomes are small and fixed, and are unable to meet the increased expense which illness invariably brings.

Surely those who are comfortably off can offer the services of a trained nurse at such times without pauperising the recipient. The poor freely help one another when in trouble. Why should the well-to-do not be "neighbourly" also? Is it right that they should fall short of the example set them by their poorer neighbours in exercising the virtue of human kindness?

Let patients give freewill offerings to Nursing Associations if they like when they are well again. They will not usually be found backward in doing so, but do not let us insist on payment when they are ill. One of the strongest points about the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, when founded by the late Queen was that the services of the nurses were to be free.

Yours faithfully,

AN ADMIRER OF THE POOR.

## WOMEN PHARMACISTS.

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

MADAM,—The letter in your number of April 11th, from the Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries is discourteous and somewhat astonishing. He must be aware that under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, the only persons allowed to sell poisons or to keep a shop for dispensing them are registered chemists, and druggists and registered medical practitioners, and that persons holding the dispenser's certificate of the Apothecaries' Society possess no more rights in this matter than any member of the public, and yet he says that my statements regarding the certificate are entirely untrue! The only legal right the certificate gives is the somewhat vague one of acting as assistant to an apothecary. It is hardly necessary to categorise the other point of my letter; but I may repeat that I have a large acquaintance both with women holding the Pharmaceutical Society's qualification and with those possessing the Apothecaries' Society's dispensing certificate, and that as a rule the former are much

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