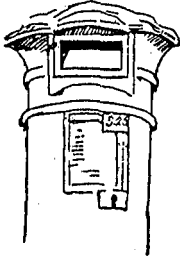


## Letters to the Editor.

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.*

## A STANDARD IMPERATIVE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to Mrs. Hadfield's none too courteous letter containing references to myself which I need not notice, I may, perhaps, be allowed to say that the nurses at the "London" do not do "menial work," and that "routine work" is a part of nursing. Also perhaps I may be allowed to tell her that our nurses go through seven weeks at a Preliminary Training School before they come into the Hospital. By the time they enter the Wards they have learnt sickroom cookery, bandaging, splint-padding, bed-making, the taking of temperatures, the keeping of temperature charts, the measuring of medicines and the many other nursing details which can be taught by way of preparation for their actual attendance upon the sick. They have the advantage of attending lectures and classes on elementary Physiology, Anatomy, and Hygiene, and careful individual instruction is given. All these things have to be learned, and the routine duties to be done as well in Hospitals where there is no Preliminary Training School.

I may also be allowed to tell Mrs. Hadfield that we do not only ask for confidential reports from the employers of the Nurses, but also in every case from the doctors who attend the patients, and in addition we receive numbers of appreciative personal letters from both.

It is true that Sir Frederick Treves was a London Hospital surgeon, and, therefore, might be expected to get a nurse from the "London." But, Mrs. Hadfield misses my point that he would not have been satisfied with an *ill-trained* nurse for so responsible an occasion.

Nurses are not sent out from the "London" who are not fully trained. It is absurd to maintain that an arbitrary period of three years is the chief factor in a nurse's training, irrespective of unique opportunities for gaining knowledge and experience.

The sentence about the presents to nurses which Mrs. Hadfield refers to was inserted at the request of some of our nurses themselves, as it strengthens their position if they wish to refuse what is offered to them, and there is nothing degrading in it at all. *Honi soit qui mal y pense.*

I can safely leave the reputation of our nurses in other hands than those of Mrs. Hadfield, of Malvern. They are sent for by the leading members of the medical profession throughout the

country. They are asked for over and over again by the same people, and the reputation London Hospital nurses have will not be injured by these idle attempts to create prejudice against them.

Yours faithfully,  
SYDNEY HOLLAND.

Kneesworth Hall,  
Royston, Herts.

[We think Mr. Holland must take the blame for the criticism called forth by the conditions of training and private nursing service at the London Hospital. The nurses are only to blame in so far that they submit to them. What the Nursing Profession has a right to demand is fair play, and that the London Hospital shall not send out, as thoroughly trained, women in their third year if not before, for full fees, and thus make a huge profit out of their work, permitting them to compete in the open market with nurses who have given three or four years' time and labour to learn their work thoroughly. It is an altogether unsound industrial condition. Mr. Holland is well aware that when nurses are registered, and their work organised and protected by the State, these unjust conditions will not last for a day.—ED.]

## A REGISTRATION YEAR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As one of those who have for nearly twenty years been a convinced registrationist, I was glad to read in our Journal that this was to be a "registration year," and that every effort is to be made to educate the public, especially our legislators, on this "question of national importance," as the Lord President of the Council has aptly described it.

I was sincerely disappointed at my inability to attend the Registration Meeting in Belfast and listen to Mrs. Kildare Treacy's eloquent Address, but thanks again to our Journal, we far-away district nurses in Ireland greatly enjoyed reading the full report of it. The tone of the whole speech pleased me much. It was straight from the shoulder joint, full of courage and convincing, and after all these years it is no good talking nonsense about this most necessary reform. We must look the political and professional aspect in the face, and if interested opposition continues, expose it, and no longer delude ourselves about motives. The fact is to be "anti" a person must be very stupid, or very unprincipled, the majority of opposers are the former, the manipulators of the lay nursing press the latter, and I am glad to note that Mrs. Treacy was quite outspoken on the situation.

With every country, even our own colonies, galloping ahead of us by State organisation of nursing, we shall soon be the reproach of the nursing world, unless we rouse ourselves, and one and all do everything in our power to urge Parliament to treat trained nurses and the sick justly. At present we are at the mercy of both ignorance and vice.

Yours gratefully,  
AN IRISH NURSE.

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